

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1466474-0

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JFB:TD

TO : MR. D. M. LADD

DATE: 4:05 PM  
5-23-44

FROM : J. F. Buckley

SUBJECT: PETER BERGSON aka HILEL KOOK; HERREW COMMITTEE OF  
NATIONAL LIBERATION: INTERNAL SECURITY (X)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Mumford	_____
Mr. Jones	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

At this time I telephonically communicated with the NY Office regarding the attached release which appeared in the Washington Post on Tuesday, May 23, alleging that the Justice Department was investigating Peter Bergson "for not registering with its Foreign Agents Registration Section" and SA [ ] furnished the following information:

SA [ ] while contacting Major [ ] for the Grand Central Induction Station, 480 Lexington Avenue, NYC, today, was advised that Colonel [ ] Medical Officer attached to Selective Service Headquarters, NYC, had contacted [ ] at the U. S. Naval Recruiting Station, 383 Madison Avenue, NYC, with reference to having one Hilel Kook sworn into the United States Navy on May 22. Agent [ ] contacted [ ] at the Grand Central Induction Station, who advised he had information to the effect that Colonel [ ] had endeavored to secure the induction of Kook thru [ ] [ ] also stated it was his information that Kook had received a pre-induction physical examination at Washington, D. C. sometime during the early part of 1944 and that his induction into the USN was requested after the 90 day period had expired prior to his pre-induction physical examination. [ ] stated that while reading the Herald Tribune this morning he noticed an article entitled "Bergson Faces Inquiry By FBI as Alien Agent" and he immediately recognized the name of Hilel Kook as being the same individual whom Colonel [ ] was endeavoring to have sworn into the U. S. Naval forces.

Agent [ ] at the suggestion of [ ] also contacted [ ] at which time [ ] advised he had been contacted by Colonel [ ] of the Selective Service Headquarters, NYC and that [ ] had requested that Kook be sworn into the U. S. Naval forces, without any additional examination. [ ] advised that he told [ ] that this was contrary to the law governing Selective Service and that he had no authority to swear in Kook or any other individual where he had previously had a pre-induction physical examination and the 90 day period had expired. He advised the Colonel that if he handled the matter thru the proper channels, he would be glad to see that the matter was taken care of. Agent [ ] asked [ ] whether Colonel [ ] was insistent on the induction of Kook and [ ] stated that [ ] was not. He further advised that when he asked [ ] "why was not Hilel Kook treated as any other individual according to the Selective Service law", [ ] answer was that "this man has been in the hair of Cordell Hull and they would like to have him inducted with the least possible trouble and a new pre-induction physical examination was troublesome." [ ] advised that his information was that Hilel Kook was an original registrant of Local Board #31, NYC and that he had been transferred to Local Board #15-A, Washington, D. C. [ ] advised it was his infor-

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54 JUL 10 1944

5-23-44

mation that Kook had received the pre-induction physical examination on February 11, 1944, thru Local Board #15-A, Washington, D. C., and had subsequently been retransferred back to Local Board #31, NYC. b6  
b7C

Agent [ ] also furnished the following article entitled "Bergson Faces Inquiry by FBI as Alien Agent" which appeared in the New York Herald Tribune of May 23. It carries the byline of Ann Cottrell and Washington dateline May 22.

" Peter Bergson, head of the newly formed Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, which is now seeking diplomatic recognition is under investigation by the Justice Department concerning his temporary visitor's visa which expired July 7, 1941, and for not registering with the Foreign Agents Registration, a Department spokesman informed the New York Herald Tribune today. Mr. Bergson's Committee, which recently purchased a \$63,000 "Embassy" here was brought further into the news today when it was charged by Max Zaritsky, President of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers of America, that the American League for Free Palestine is a subdivision of the Liberation Committee. Mr. Zaritsky in an open letter to the League, forbade the League to use his name on any documents issued by the League. William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, also asked in a letter that his name not be used.

" Mr. Bergson, who is said to be known to immigration authorities under his real name of Hilel Kook, has been identified with the organization of several Jewish rescue committees since he arrived in the United States on July 7, 1940. Justice Department records show that he stated he was a journalist and a British subject, having lived in Palestine which is under British supervision for 18 years. He was born in Lithuania and is recorded as the son of Rabbi Dove Kook.

" A biography issued by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation states that "he was responsible for initiating the American Friends of Palestine, the Committee for a Jewish Army and Stateless and Palestinian Jews, the Proclamation on the Rights of the Palestinian Jews, the gigantic pageant "We Kill, Never Die" and the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

" Mr. Bergson has not listed himself as a member of the American League for a Free Palestine which is under attack from organized labor, but a pamphlet on the aims of the League states that the American League backs the aims and objectives of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. The establishment of the National Liberation Committee was not announced until after the pamphlet was issued. When its establishment was announced last Thursday, Mr. Bergson said the Committee was but ten days old. Mr. Zaritsky charged that the League was a subdivision of the -National Liberation Committee which was recently under severe attack by Zionist agencies for its attempt to establish a Hebrew Embassy in Washington."

Mr. Ladd

- 3 -

5-23-44

Linking the League and the Liberation Committee, Mr. Zaritsky said members of the two groups are members of the Palestinian Irgun which he said had been denounced as Fascist by the ~~Palestinian Labor Federation~~.

Mr. Green's letter was addressed to Representative Andrew L. Somers, Democrat of New York, who is listed on its stationery as one of the League's sponsors. Mr. Green said he is already serving with the ~~American Jewish Trade Union Committee for Palestine~~ and asked that the League "discontinue the use of my name in the work of the American League for a Free Palestine and in the administrative policies of the said organization."

Attached to Mr. Zaritsky's letter were the signatures of Mr. Green, R. J. Thomas, President of the ~~United Automobile Workers of the Congress of Industrial Organizations~~, Samuel Wolchok, International President of the ~~United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America~~, Leo E. George, President of the ~~National Federation of Post Office Clerks~~, and James Maloney, President of the ~~American Glass and Bottle Blowers Association~~. //

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19  
25



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1944

✓ The Director	Records Section
Mr. Tolson	Personnel Files
Mr. Ladd	Send File
Mr. Coffey	Bring file up-
Mr. Rosen	to-date
Mr. Clegg	Search, serial-
Mr. Glavin	ize, and route
Mr. Nichols	* * *
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	Mechanical Section
Mr. Quinn Tamm	* * *
Mr. Nease	Call me re this
Mr. Welch	Note and return
Miss Gandy	See me

## SECTION CHIEFS

Mr. Alden	Mr. Tolson
Mr. Buckley	Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Burton	Mr. Clegg
Mr. Callan	Mr. Coffey
Mr. Carson	Mr. Glavin
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Ladd
Mr. Fitch	Mr. Nichols
	Mr. Rosen
	Mr. Tracy

Mr. Mohr	Stamp and mail	b6
Mr. Carson	War and Navy File	b7C
Mr. Hendon	State Dept. File	
Mr. Mumford	Type	
Mr. Jones	Register & forward	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	Prepare tickler for	
Mr. Nease	Call these files	
Miss Gandy	File	

See me

Place on record and return

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DATE 4/30/84 BY SP-168K/PSK  
233271

EDWARD A. TAMM - 5734

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. D. M. LADD *DL*

FROM : J. K. MUMFORD

DATE: May 23, 1944

JKM:PES

4:15 p.m. *1/10/44*

SUBJECT:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 1/30/84 BY SP-1 CSK/PSK

233271

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Mumford	_____
Mr. Jones	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

I called Mr. James Sharp of the Department to find out about a newspaper article which appeared in the Washington Post today to the effect that the Justice Department was investigating Peter Bergson and the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and whether the Department had requested that we conduct an investigation inasmuch as our records did not show that such a request was made. Sharp said they had not requested us to conduct any investigation.

In order to explain the circumstances Sharp said about two or three months ago conversations were had with Bergson and he said then they were about to organize this new affair. In spite of all the difficulties of the theories under which they were subject to registration, Sharp admitted to him that it was one of those cases where he could not say it is definitely out or he could not say it is definitely in, it is just a question of interpretation. Sharp told Bergson it was one of the cases in which he would not tell him that he thinks they are exempt and at the same time he would not insist they were absolutely subject to the Act. Bergson finally said from the standpoint of public relations and general things just to prove they have a place to show their records and show they are not hiding anything, they would comply with the Statute in spite of the difficulties and just show the Jewish people throughout the world is their foreign principal. At that time they did not have any definite organization which they would admit they were collaborating with. Bergson said he would get the matter formulated before filing because "why file one and then have to file one entirely different a week later." Sharp said Bergson was supposed to come in around May 15 and file the statement.

Off the record Sharp said what happened was that about three or four days ago Mr. Phillips, one of the Department's public relations men, called him on the telephone and asked if this organization were registered and when Sharp said it was not he asked the status of it. Sharp told him they had been talking to Bergson and the others and they were going to file a statement but as yet they had not done so. He also told Phillips they had been looking into the background of the matter for a long time. Sharp said he understood Phillips merely said somebody asked whether this organization were registered and if they were doing anything about it and he said they were merely looking into it.

Mr. Sharp further advised that a newspaperman from New York (probably from "PM") called him this morning and asked if he could say the Department had not requested the FBI to make an investigation and Sharp said he did not want to be quoted on it but that he could state he understood that was the case. Sharp told me they had not specifically requested us to make an investigation other than previous memoranda requesting us to secure information from the British as to the background of the organization because the Department was positive that there is some tie with Palestine and this group which they have not been able to find.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

EHW:DMM

TO : Mr. E. A. Tamm

FROM : Mr. D. M. Ladd

SUBJECT: HILIEL KOOK, alias Peter Bergson;  
HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

DATE: May 23, 1944

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Mr. Mohr ✓  
Mr. Carson ✓  
Mr. Hendon ✓  
Mr. Mumford ✓  
Mr. Jones ✓  
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Mr. Nease ✓  
Miss Beahm ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

INTRODUCTION

Reference is made to your inquiry as to whether the Bureau is investigating Bergson and if so, on what basis. Reference is also made to your request for identifying information concerning Bergson. You will recall this matter arose from the attached article appearing in the Washington Post dated May 23, 1944, wherein it is stated Bergson is under investigation by the Department of Justice concerning his visa status and relative to his failure to register as a foreign agent.

At the outset, Bergson has not been investigated by the Bureau nor has an investigation been requested by the Department relative to him. Information has been supplied to the Criminal Division of the Department concerning the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews of which Bergson was the National Director.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION IN INSTANT MATTER

The article in the Washington Post undoubtedly has arisen from negotiations between the Foreign Agents Registration Section and Bergson over his possible registration as a foreign agent. Mr. James Sharp of the Foreign Agents Registration Section of the Department has advised that he has had conversations with Bergson some two or three months ago, at the time Bergson was allegedly organizing the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. They concerned the possible registration of Bergson as a foreign agent, and while there was some doubt in Sharp's mind as to whether Bergson should actually register, Bergson finally stated to Sharp that from a standpoint of public relations, and in order to prove his organization is not hiding anything, he, Bergson, would register to show that the Jewish people throughout the world are their foreign principal. Bergson was supposed to come in around May 15, 1944, and file a registration statement.

Off the record, Sharp said that what has happened is that about three or four days ago (May 19 or 20), a Mr. Phillips, one of the Department's public relations' men connected with [ ] called Sharp on the telephone and asked if the organization was registered, and when Sharp said it was not, he asked the status of it. Sharp told him of talking to Bergson and others of the organization and that a registration statement was to be filed, although this action has not been taken as yet. He also told Phillips the Foreign Agents Registration Section had been looking into the background of this group for some time (it is possible that Sharp is referring to the information on the Committee for a Jewish Army which was submitted to the Department by the Bureau. Bergson was National Director of this organization).

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Memorandum for Mr. Tamm

Sharp then stated that he understood Phillips to have merely said that somebody asked whether Bergson's organization was registered and if anything was going to be done about it, and he, Sharp, said they were just looking into the organization.

Sharp further advised that a newspaper man from New York City had called him on the morning of May 23, 1944, and asked if he could say the Department had not requested the Bureau to make an investigation of Bergson. Sharp stated he told the newspaper man he did not want to be quoted on it, but that he could state that he understood this was the case.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY NEW YORK OFFICE

Since the Department's spokesman on Bergson could not be positively identified, the New York Office was called for information available relative to the allegations in the newspaper article. It will be recalled that the New York Herald Tribune, according to the Washington Post, was originally informed by the Department's spokesman. An article appears in the New York Herald Tribune for May 23, 1944, entitled "Bergson Faces Inquiry by FBI as Alien Agent." This bore a by-line of Ann Cottrell and a Washington date line of May 22. Briefly, the article referred to the newly formed Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and particularly Bergson, its head. The article said that Bergson is seeking diplomatic recognition and that he is under investigation by the Justice Department concerning his expired visitor's visa and for not registering as a foreign agent. It went on to relate the background of Bergson's organization and its purposes, as well as those of several closely connected organizations. The article also contains reference to the failure of Bergson to obtain permission for the use of the names of such people as [redacted] of the A. F. of L. It also said that [redacted] labor leader, had forbidden the use of his name by Bergson. b6 b7C

The article in the Herald Tribune further stated that Bergson is known to immigration authorities under the name of Hilel Kook and that he arrived in the United States on July 7, 1940. Further, Justice Department records show that he stated he was a journalist and a British subject, having lived in Palestine. He is supposed to have been born in Lithuania as the son of Rabbi Dove Kook.

It was also reported to the New York Office by Selective Service officials that Colonel [redacted] of Selective Service headquarters, New York City, had requested Bergson's induction into the United States Navy expedited since "this man has been in the hair of Cordell Hull and they would like to have him inducted with the least possible trouble and a new pre-induction physical examination was troublesome" (the ninety-day period succeeding Bergson's pre-induction physical examination had expired). b6 b7C

STATE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION CONCERNING BERGSON

In May, 1943, [redacted] of the Bureau observed a letter prepared on the letterhead of the Committee for a Jewish Army by Peter H. Bergson, addressed to [redacted] Bergson advised that he and five of his colleagues were in the United



Memorandum for Mr. Tamm

States as visitors and were in danger of being drafted. He said he would be glad to fight in the United States Army except that he and his colleagues have a much larger responsibility - the raising of a Jewish Army of 200,000. Bergson appealed for [ ] aid to impress his draft board with his non-combatant value to the United Nations.

b6  
b7C

It was also in May, 1943, that several United States Senators were expressing their anger over the use of their names by Bergson without their authority. Senator Lucas, according to the State Department, was particularly perturbed and stated then that he might ask the Bureau to investigate Bergson. No request along these lines was received, however.

[ ] of the State Department has also advised [ ] of the Bureau that Bergson came into the United States in 1940 and that his status, as of May 23, 1944, was that his visitor's visa was "overstayed." He said that there is presently a warrant outstanding for the deportation of Bergson, but that it has not been served, possibly because it might make a martyr out of Bergson. [ ] also advised that [ ] of the Foreign Agents Registration Section of the Department knew considerable about Bergson. He also said that Bergson had requested diplomatic immunity from the State Department, presumably to avoid the draft, but the State Department had not considered it at all.

b6  
b7C

#### BERGSON'S CONNECTIONS

Bergson is, according to newspaper articles, the head of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. This group, according to literature in the possession of the Bureau, desires the establishment of the Hebrew people of Europe and of Palestine as a nation and claims that if a plebiscite were had, these people would identify themselves explicitly as a Hebrew nation.

In April, 1944, a new organization came into existence known as the American League for a Free Palestine, under the sponsorship of such people as Max Lerner of PM, Congressman Will Rogers, Jr., and others. A pamphlet put out by this organization stated that it supported the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. It said that a handful of its members has initiated in the past three years in the United States, the following organizations:

~~The American Friends of a Jewish Palestine~~  
~~The Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews~~  
~~The Emergency Conference and the Emergency Committee~~  
~~to Save the Jewish People of Europe.~~

Bergson is not identified in this literature as affiliated with the American League for a Free Palestine. He has, however, been listed as the National Director of the Committee for a Jewish Army. An investigation was conducted of this organization by the Bureau and briefly it can be described as one promoting such an army.

Memorandum for Mr. Tamm

While there were allegations that there were Communists infiltrating the Committee, there were no concrete indications of this. None of its officers were known Communists. It was reported in April, 1943, that the majority of Jewish people in the United States were not supporting it, although at that time its following was increasing. Since that time there have been no indications of any widespread activity on its part. The British advise concerning the Committee that the Committee in London was inspired by the United States group and further, that the British branch had taken directives from New York City. At the time, the officers of the English branch were quarreling among themselves and British authorities had taken no action, thinking the group would die a natural death.

Bergson was listed as a speaker for the July 20, 1943 session of the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe, at the Hotel Commodore, New York City.

Apparently a permanent organization, the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, was formed out of the above described conference. Among the co-chairmen was Bergson, along with Louie Bromfield, Max Lerner, Ben Hecht, Representative Will Rogers, Jr., and [redacted]. Among the vice chairmen were a number of people who had been identified in liberal circles but who could not be considered Communists.

b6  
b7C

Relative to the latter named organization, the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, an article appeared in the November 24, 1943 issue of the Daily Worker which attacked the group as displaying anti-United Nations aims. The subsequent article in the same paper, dated April 6, 1944, said that the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe was in the hands of Republican Defeatists, Social Democrats and Revisionist Zionists.

Enclosure



2 THE WASHINGTON POST  
Tuesday, May 23, 1944

x\*\*\*\*

Hebrew Committee Head  
Is Under Investigation

Copyright by New York Tribune, Inc.

Peter Bergson, head of the newly formed Hebrew Committee of National Liberation which is now seeking diplomatic recognition, is under investigation by the Justice Department concerning his temporary visitor's visa, which expired July 7, 1941, and for not registering with its foreign agents' registration section, a department spokesman informed the New York Herald Tribune yesterday.

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ENCLOSURE

100-310922-3

7-12-44

EHW:LVO:DM

Mr. Edward J. Ennis.

Acting Head, War Division

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

PETER BERGSON

(Hebrew Committee of National Liberation)

Attention: Foreign Agents Registration Section

The Bureau has been informed that the captioned person is scheduled to speak at Town Hall, New York City, on July 12, 1944. It is understood that he has registered under the provisions of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 as amended.

It would be appreciated if you would furnish the Bureau with a copy of the speech Bergson supplied to the Foreign Agents Registration Section of the Department.

Inasmuch as it is understood he is registered, no coverage is contemplated of Bergson's speech. Any other information supplied with respect to this meeting would, of course, be appreciated.

RECEIVED READING ROOM

NOV 25 6 13 PM '44

100-310922-4

20 JUL 15 1944

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Carson

Conroy, M. Mr.

Hendon

Mr. McGee

Mr. Mumford

Mr. Quinn

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

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DATE 2-23-78 BY 2333

6A5/b4

FILED

# "THE BIRTH OF A NATION RALLY"

To be held at

## TOWN HALL

Address: 123 West 43rd Street, New York

Time: 8:30 P. M.

Date: Wednesday, July 12th, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 1/30/84 BY SP-1/CRK/PSR  
233271

FEATURING

## PETER H. BERGSON

Chairman - Hebrew Committee of National Liberation

IN HIS FIRST

## MAJOR POLITICAL ADDRESS

OTHER PROMINENT SPEAKERS

THRILLING CEREMONIES

APPROPRIATE DRAMATIZATIONS

- What Is the Renascent Hebrew Nation?
- What Will Be the Relationship Between This Renascent Nation and Americans of Hebrew Descent?
- What Four Immediate Demands Does the Hebrew Committee of National Libration Make of the Democratic World?
- What Is the Objective of the League For A Free Palestine?
- Who Are the American Readers and Prominent Public Figures Who Have Come Out Demanding Support For and Recognition of the Hebrew Committee?
- What Is Symbolized by the Unrecognized Hebrew Embassy and the Blue and White Flag With the Star of David Which Waves So Proudly From That Building?

INDEXED IN  
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FILES

ADMISSION: 60c, \$1.20

(Tax Included)

**American**

*League for a Free Palestine inc.*

11 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y.

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Ben Hecht      Rep. Andrew L. Somers

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Lion Feuchtwanger      Rabbi Baruch Rabinowitz      William Zorach  
Eric Godal      Curt Riess

**Executive Director**  
Alex Wilf

May 24, 1944

American League for a Free Palestine

I think that the formation of the Hebrew Committee of National Libration is one of the most wholesome signs that has yet appeared on the horizon of post-war solutions of age-old problems. I believe its claims are just, its philosophy sound. It is the sensible, rational answer both to the Palestine problem and the problems of anti-semitism. Peter H. Bergson, with whom I have worked for a long time, is a man of unquestioned integrity, tireless energy and dynamic leadership. It is men of this type who will, I hope, be leading figures in the post-war world. The American League for a Free Palestine is formed in the finest tradition of all national descent and creed will give it their wholehearted support.

WILL ROGERS, JR.

**WHO ARE "THOSE SEVEN MEN" OF THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION?**



Peter H. Bergson



Samuel Merlin



Aryeh Ben-Eliezer



Eri Jabotinsky



Theodore Bennahum



Pierre Delougaz



Jeremia Halpern

Why are they so vehemently and unscrupulously attacked?  
Why are they supported with such devotion and enthusiasm?  
But above all—What do they want and what do they stand for?

American League for a Free Palestine

11 West Forty-Second Street — Suite 450

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

C



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4.  
2.  
*American League for a Free Palestine*  
*11 West 42nd Street*  
*New York 18, N. Y.*

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233271

Gentlemen:

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at

☐ 60c.

☐ \$1.20

Enclosed please find sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_





ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

CJS:RM

149-893

JUL 24 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Peter Bergson<sup>①</sup>  
(Hebrew Committee of  
National Liberation)

This will acknowledge your memorandum of July 13, 1944 concerning the above individual.

For your information the ~~Hebrew~~ Hebrew Committee of National Liberation filed a registration statement under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended on June 15, 1944. Although some of the Committee's literature issued since that date has been received, our files do not contain a copy of Mr. Bergson's address at Town Hall, New York City, on July 12, nor do they contain any information concerning the meeting at which he spoke. An effort will be made however to secure copies of this address and you may be sure that as soon as they are received, a copy will be promptly forwarded to the Bureau.

*Charles J. Sheppe*

Charles J. Sheppe, Acting Chief  
Foreign Agents Registration Section  
War Division

FOR DEFENSE



BUY  
UNITED  
STATES  
SAVINGS  
BONDS  
AND STAMPS

RECORDED & INDEXED  
36

100-310922-5  
27 JUL 25 1944  
FIVE  
R

532 JUL 22 1944

FROM: 120

TO:

Mr. Peter H. Bergson  
(Hebrew Embassy)  
2317 Massachusetts Ave.  
Washington, D.C.

b6  
b7C

LIST: 020

LIST: 020

Date of communication July 12, 1944	Date of postmark July 13, 1944	Kind of mail A	Mail No.	Register No. None	Serial No.
Language English	Previously censored by None	Station distribution July 29, 1944 DR		DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION	
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Division (or section) Business	Table 301	Examiner S/S 30581	D. A. C. 30581	Reviewer AC 30809	Examination date July 27, 1944	Typing date July 27, 1944
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DR  
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DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSK/RS COMMENT

ON 11/31/84  
283271

ARGENTINE RESIDENT DISCUSSES PLANS FOR POSSIBLE "WORLD JEWISH ORGANIZATION."

Acknowledging receipt of addressee's cable of July 11th., writer states, "I was sure that the commutation of the Birnbaum - verdict was due to your efforts. Please have airmailed some editorials of the American press about this matter."

"You knew probably that the first telegraphic transfer to Eri in Ankara could not be delivered to him, because he was no more at the Palace Hotel on July 6. We have ready about U\$S 5000. for him, which can be sent only (sic) to Turkey. This money could be raised if we had some proofs and details about his diplomatic (Steinhardt) and refugee - work; but all the news speak only about the activities of JDC, (EXAM: Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (B 7000, 6969)) U\$S (EXAM: World Jewish Congress (BA 4600, 7000)) and Agency (EXAM: evidently the Jewish Agency for Palestine (Y 7468)). On the other side I insist that you arrive at an agreement with Sobel from the JDC, because my brother raises here huge sums for the JDC which are all sent to the JDC - man in Istanbul, Leon Ben-Zion for transport of refugees. The JDC is our natural ally, in this field."

"The news about your activities reach us too late. One of the most important aspects of a Government - in exile is its press-department. I suggest you send us weekly, every week at least, a bulletin with the outstanding facts and figures. I shall pay U\$S 100.- bi-monthly. Please arrange that besides the AMEPA - service and others from N.Y."

"You have probably contacted De Gaulle, the only man who is our true friend and obliged ally for Palestine. He may even recognize in our future history a Jewish National Hebrew Committee, because it lays in the interest. Now the Jewish Agency is the Free Italians and Free Spaniards (EXAM: Ambassador Gualberto y Gualberto have contacted us for a common platform. You remember the interview I had with Gualberto (EXAM: SWI/201/24w 4601, 6920); if well he was not inclined to make a statement in favor of a Jewish State, he emitted a very sympathetic one for a Jewish Army. The three latin-mediterranean (sic) powers are evidently candidates in our future policy. So is Greece and Turkey."

"The news from London are encouraging (sic). I made a lengthy (sic) cable to Capt. [redacted] asking for advices if we should push also from here. Even a Jewish Brigade signifies a recognition as co-belligerent (sic). The local reaction could be enormous. We would like to have more material with U.S. opinions."

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Enc: Nil

SPECIAL NOTICE.—The attached information was taken from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. Information must be confided only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely distributed, or made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Director of Censorship.

BYRON PRICE, Director

## Hebrew Leader Asks Board to Recall Warrant

In a final plea before the Board of Immigration Appeals, Peter Bergson, leader of the so-called Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, yesterday asked withdrawal of the arrest warrant issued against him for illegal residence in this country.

He later disclaimed the possibility that he could be deported to Palestine for failing properly to renew his expired visa, even if the board should reject his appeal, since, he said, there is no transportation for civilians from this country to the Near East.

Pending the outcome of his case, which has been before the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization for several months, is an application before the State Department for a permanent visa so that he can continue his "work in behalf of the Hebrew people," Bergson said.

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Mohr .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Mumford .....  
Mr. Jones .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Miss Gandy .....

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EX-50

This is a clipping from  
page 9 of the  
Washington Post of

7-6-44

Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.

ROK:pmw  
100-310922  
t 10-18-44

Assistant Attorney General, Herbert Wechsler,  
War Division.  
John Edgar Hoover, Director - Federal Bureau of Investigation

PETER H. BERGSON, aka HILL KOOK

As you know, the press has recently carried articles concerning the captioned individual and the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation of which he is reportedly chairman. It is noted that some of these articles stated that Bergson and his committee have collected a large amount of money which they had no right to solicit or collect.

It is not known whether Bergson or his committee is registered with the President's War Relief Control Board to collect funds for foreign relief or whether they have received any licenses from the Treasury Department.

It is noted that by memorandum dated July 24, 1944, from Mr. Charles J. Sheppe, Acting Chief, Foreign Agents Registration Section, your file reference 149-893, it was stated that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation has filed a registration statement under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended on June 15, 1944.

It would be appreciated if you would advise whether this registration covers the activities of Bergson and his committee in collecting funds for foreign relief, and, in the event it does not, whether you believe an investigation should be conducted of Bergson in this regard.

ENCLOSURE

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100-310922-7  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 21 1944

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 8

OCT 20 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy



## Attacks Zionists

# Bergson Admits His Committee Has No Right to Collect Funds

By Gloria Lubar and  
Edward F. van der Veen

Peter H. Bergson held a press conference late yesterday.

Bergson wanted to discuss and denounce yesterday's Washington Post's story about his activities in this country.

Bergson presented a prepared statement in which he charged the tone of The Post story was one of deliberate misrepresentation and insinuation to present him in the worst possible light.

Bergson admitted when questioned, however, that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, of which he is chairman, is not American; has no right to collect funds; is taking no action toward direct relief to "Hebrews;" and does not, to their knowledge, represent either European or Palestinian "Hebrews."

(The use of word "Hebrew" as a noun is Bergson's stock in trade. He contends that a Jew may be a citizen of any country, but that a "Hebrew" is a "stateless Jew.")

In a telegram calling the press conference, Samuel Merlin, a co-patriot of Bergson, charged The Post was the tool of "British imperialists and defeatist Zionist leaders."

Earlier in the day, Third Precinct police said they plan to call Bergson into court to explain why he has operated a business from 2315 Massachusetts ave. nw., a highly restricted residential area, without an occupancy permit.

Police said they told Bergson when he moved into the quarters that if he wished to conduct a business he must go to the District Commissioners and have them change the zoning restrictions. Bergson did that, police said, and reported that he had been refused.

Police said they then told Bergson he must obtain an occupancy permit from the zoning commission. According to the Zoning Commission, this request also was refused on the ground the only business that could be operated in that restricted area would have to have been established there prior to 1920, or be a recognized embassy or legation.

At the press conference persistent questioning by The Post as to whom he (Bergson) represents, repeatedly brought this answer: "I represent myself."

Demand for a more explicit explanation as to what he meant by "myself" caused Bergson to add: "I embrace all stateless 'Hebrews.'"

Bergson insisted that part of the capital of the Hebrew National Liberation Fund, Inc., was provided for by Billy Rose, night club impresario.

Reached in New York last night by The Post, Rose denied any connection with Bergson, his committees, or the fund.

"Let him show one single check I ever signed," Rose said. "It is true that I did stage the pageant, 'We Will Never Die,' both in New York and at Constitution Hall in Washington for Ben Hecht, who wrote it. I did it because it was a good show. That was my only connection with the pageant."

Representative Sol Bloom (D., N. Y.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, questioned as to Bergson's accomplishments during his stay in this country, declared: "No authorized Jewish agency approves of the methods adopted by Bergson and his groups."

Charging that Bergson's methods were purely lobbying and high pressuring, Bloom exhibited a telegram from the Emergency Com-

mittee to Save the Jewish People of Europe last year, asking those who receive the telegram to give a generous contribution so that the committee could "force passage of a resolution" then pending in Congress "to force Washington, London, Palestine, England, Turkey to continue work on larger scale."

"If that isn't high pressuring and lobbying, I would like to know what is," declared Bloom.

Bloom recalled Bergson's appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee last fall:

"I asked him if he had come into this country legally," the Congressman said.

"I don't know," Bergson told me. Swore at Witness

"What the hell do you mean you don't know?" I thundered.

Chuckling, the Congressman added, "It's the first time I ever remember swearing at a committee hearing."

Bergson told Bloom he still didn't know.

"Where were you born?" I persisted," Bloom went on.

"Bergson said it was none of my business. I then dismissed him."

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Washington Post  
OCTOBER 4, 1944

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MR. LADD

MR. J. C. STRICKLAND

~~SECRET~~

October 7, 1944

JEWISH TERRORISTS GROUPS  
Palestine  
(Irgun Tzvai Leumi)

Palestine - Soc. Mst. X

On the morning of October 7, 1944, Special Agents Burton, Roach and Winterrowd conferred with Assistant Commissioner R. C. Catling in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D.), Palestine, with respect to his inquiries for information concerning groups or individuals possibly in contact with the terrorist groups in Palestine. He specifically displayed considerable interest in Peter Bergson, alias Hillel Kook, head of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and the subject of considerable newspaper publicity at the present time. He asked if the Bureau had received any information indicating that Bergson might possibly be financing some of the activities of the terrorist groups in Palestine. At the outset, it was explained to Mr. Catling that the man who ordinarily receives the information concerning Zionist matters was not then available but that if Mr. Catling would outline the information he desired a review of the Bureau's records would be made in an attempt to obtain such data. It was also explained to Mr. Catling that of course the Bureau does not delve in religious or quasi religious matters. ✓

Mr. Catling advised that he was particularly desirous of information concerning a possible transfer of funds for the benefit of the terrorist groups as well as the identities of those persons or organizations responsible for the collection of the funds. He advised that he had no concrete information indicating that funds have been transmitted to Palestine by groups in this country, although the possibility exists that this has been the case. He pointed out that there are citizens of Palestine who are desirous of making investments in the United States and that it is not beyond the realm of reason for representatives of the terrorist groups to approach these persons and advise them that if the money were made available to them their representatives in the United States (e.g. Bergson) would in turn arrange the necessary credits in this country. Catling pointed out he has not come across any actual examples of this, however.

In answer to a query as to possible contacts of Peter Bergson in Palestine, Catling advised that he knew of two. One is named [redacted] who arrived in Palestine from the United States in February or March of 1944.

case to Palestine as an ordinary traveler and, according to Catling, he was purported to be the representative of Bergson in Palestine. Catling said he had no information showing any undue amount of funds in the possession of [ ] at the time he arrived. [ ] has since been interned by the British authorities in Palestine. (S)

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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100-31092  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
OCT 23 1944  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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(U) Another contact of Bergson who has been in Palestine, according to Catling, is [redacted] who, sometime during 1944, arrived in Palestine en route to Iran to contact there the War Refugee Board representative, one [redacted]. No search was made of [redacted] because of his possession of papers which indicated he had United States Governmental recognition. (S)

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(U) Other than the foregoing, Catling had no specific information on which to base a review of the Bureau's files for possible connection between persons in this country and in Palestine. He did, however, mention that one [redacted] (phonetic) is believed to be a collaborator of Bergson in this country. According to Catling, [redacted] came to this country from Palestine in 1939, shortly after he had been released from internment there for his activity with the terrorist groups. [redacted] still has a wife and a daughter in Palestine. (S)

(U) During the course of the conversation with Catling he outlined generally the organizational character of the Jewish terrorist groups in Palestine. He said that the phonetic English name of these groups is Irgun Tzvai Leumi, the general translation of which is National Military Group. This organization, at the present time, has some 3,500 to 4,000 members. It is a highly secretive group which operates on a terroristic basis. He said that the makeup of the organization is as follows: There are cells of from four to six members who are led by a "Commander." The members of one cell do not know the identities of members of other cells. However, Commanders of approximately three different cells will meet to receive instructions. In turn one of them meets with a still higher group of officials and so on to the highest authority. He said the remarkable thing about the organization is that its leader at the present time is a Pole who was released some nine or ten months ago from the Polish Army. His name is [redacted]. (S)

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(U) With regard to the character of the members of the groups, Catling stated that the members are usually younger Jewish people, ranging from 17 to 35 years of age and that all but the functionaries are employed in some occupation. The functionaries, however, are completely underground. The Criminal Investigation Department has some informant coverage of the terrorist groups which has been productive. The best information has been received through the payment of money to informants and for the most part the information has proved reliable. (S)

(U) There are female members of the terrorist groups who, according to Mr. Catling, are perhaps more vicious than the male members. He advised that they are used for such activity as the extortion of money from wealthier Jewish people in a community. As an example he said a Jewish woman will appear in the office of some merchant and say that the "Jewish National cause" needs 500 pounds from the particular person being contacted. If the merchant refuses he later receives a letter or verbal threat that his house will be burned or that he even will be murdered if he does not furnish the fund. Usually the money (S)

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is furnished in view of the fear of these terrorist groups or because some of the Jewish citizens feel that Great Britain has brought this problem upon themselves and furthermore that the terrorist groups are actually working for a National State of Jews in Palestine, something which they desire themselves. He said that the victims of the atrocities rarely report the incident to the authorities and consequently it is extremely difficult to conduct proper investigation. (S) (U)

With regard to the murders and assassinations committed by the terrorist groups, Mr. Catling said that they are very skilled operators and he described them in such a fashion that it brought to mind the activities of organized gangsters in this country. He said that if a particular murder is to be committed a designated group of the terrorists will surveil the possibilities for a month or so prior to taking their action. It will then be either an ambush or a bomb planted in some very vulnerable spot. The affairs are so well planned that there is rarely any evidence and the only way the suspected murderers can be handled under ordinary circumstances is to intern them under the act which permits interning anyone suspected of disturbing the security of the empire. If witnesses were at the scene of the crime under ordinary circumstances they will not testify for fear of being a subject of the terroristic methods used by these groups. (S) (U)

As regards relations between the Arabs and these terrorist groups, very little help can be obtained from Arabs, primarily because of the difficulty in the language and lack of knowledge on the part of the Arabs of the identities of terrorist groups. Mr. Catling said that if an Arab is murdered by a terrorist group then Arabs in turn will shoot perhaps the first Jew they encounter, whether he is a member of the group or not. (S) (U)

Mr. Catling advised that there has been no indication received that there is any contact or cooperation between terrorist groups and Russians or Communist groups in Palestine. He stated that in fact, the Communists desire the Jewish people and the Arabs to cooperate in Palestine and work to these ends. (S) (U)

ACTION: A review of the files is being made on the basis of the names supplied above and any pertinent information discovered reflecting possible transfer of funds or other assistance to these groups in Palestine will be made the subject of a blank memorandum for possible transmittal to Mr. Catling. (S) (U)

- 3 - ~~SECRET~~



EHW:LVO

100-310922-

~~SECRET~~

December 16, 1944

Assistant Attorney General Herbert Wechsler  
War Division  
John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

PETER H. BERGSON, alias Hilel Kook

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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OTHERWISE

In reply to your request (your file #149-893) for all information in the Bureau's possession concerning the several organizations in which this person has been interested as well as for data relative to Bergson, [redacted]

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[redacted] Pinhas Delougaz, [redacted] and [redacted]  
there are attached summaries of the pertinent information appearing in this Bureau's files in this regard.

No information appears in the Bureau's files relative to the Hebrew National Liberation Fund, Inc.

As regards the [redacted] recently a confidential source who is familiar with conditions in Palestine furnished the following information:

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A free translation of the name of this organization is "National Military Group." This organization at the present time has some 3,500 to 4,000 members. It is a highly secretive group which operates on a terroristic basis. The makeup of the group is as follows: There are cells of from four to six members who are led by a "Commander." The members of one cell apparently do not know the identities of members of other cells. However, "Commanders" of approximately three different cells meet and form a slightly elevated group. In turn one of these "Commanders" meets with a still higher group of officials and so on to the highest authority. It was pointed out that the remarkable thing with this organization is that its leader at the present time is a Pole who allegedly was released during the latter part of 1943 from the Polish Army. His name is [redacted]

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
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As to the character of the members of the groups, the source pointed out that they are made up usually of younger Jewish people ranging from 17 to 35 years of age. All but the functionaries are employed in some occupation. The functionaries, however, are completely underground. There are female members of the Irgun who, according to the source, are perhaps even more vicious than the male members. They are used for such activity as the extortion of money from wealthy Jewish people in the community. As an example, a female member will appear in the office of some merchant and advise him that the "Jewish National cause" needs 500 pounds from the person being contacted. If the merchant refuses he later receives a letter or a verbal threat that his home will be [redacted]

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
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DATE OF REVIEW 2-23-89  
GAS/bjs 2/28/94

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

50 JAN 8 1945

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(U) burned or that such other vicious action might be taken. Usually the money is forthcoming in view of the fear on the part of persons being contacted and furthermore, because some of the Palestinian citizens feel that Great Britain has brought this problem upon themselves (as regards Palestine) and furthermore, that the terrorist groups are actually working for a National State of Jews in Palestine, - something which they desire themselves. Victims of the extortions rarely report such incidents to the authorities. ~~S~~

(U) With regard to the alleged murders and assassinations committed by the terrorist groups, the source pointed out that the members are very skilled operators - in fact comparable to organized gangsters in the 1920's and early 1930's in the United States. As an example it was pointed out by the source that if a particular murder is to be committed a designated group of the Irgun will surveil the possibilities for as long as a month or so prior to taking action. The job will be accomplished either by an ambush or by the planting of a bomb in some very vulnerable spot. The affairs are so well planned that there is rarely any evidence on which to base an investigation and the only way the suspected murderers can be handled under ordinary circumstances is by interning them. In the event there might have been witnesses at the scene of the particular crime committed by this group, under ordinary circumstances, these witnesses will not testify for fear of being the subject of terroristic methods used by these groups. ~~S~~

(U) In reference to relations between Arabs and the terrorist groups it has been pointed out that if an Arab is murdered by the Irgun the Arabs in turn will shoot perhaps the first Jewish person they encounter whether he is a member of the group or not. ~~S~~

The source who furnished the foregoing information indicated he felt possibly Bergson and his group might be the representatives of the Irgun in this country. This source, however, had no specific details on which to base this feeling. Furthermore, he had no concrete information as to the possible transfer of funds from this country to Palestine. The source pointed out, however, that there are citizens of Palestine who are desirous of making investments in the United States and that it is not beyond the realm of reason for representatives of the Irgun to approach these persons and request or force them to furnish funds for such investments to the Irgun and then their alleged ~~S~~

(U)

~~SECRET~~

Assistant Attorney General  
Herbert Wechsler

~~SECRET~~

(U)

representative in the United States (e.g. Bergson) would in turn arrange the necessary credits in the United States. The source could not, however, cite any actual example of such an arrangement. (Assistant Commissioner R. C. Catling - CID - Palestine; 100-310922-) ~~S~~

As it will be noted, no investigation has been conducted of any of the organizations or any of the activities of the persons listed in your inquiry in connection with the various organizations. Consequently, the information appearing in the memoranda is based upon data received from voluntary sources or in connection with inquiries made in regard to other matters.

You are advised that inquiries or investigations are being held in abeyance until word is received from you.

In the event you have received additional information concerning these organizations and persons, it would be appreciated if you would make it available to this Bureau.

Enclosure

~~SECRET~~

E.H.WINTERROWD:LVO

December 15, 1944

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THEODORE BEN-NAHUM

(U)

(U)

This person is said to have the alias Theodore Kapelliovitch. He has been described by a usually reliable source as one of the three principal powers in the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. ~~S~~

(100-257656-9 -- [redacted] S)

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As to his background it is related that Ben-Nahum was born in Homel, Mohilev, Russia, June 14, 1905, and is presently a citizen of Palestine. Available records indicate that he has been in the United States since November, 1940. His occupation has been listed as an importer and exporter, his employer being the Universal Exporting Company, 50 East 42nd Street, New York City. He has listed business experience in Railway and Marine Forwarding. His income for the year prior to March 9, 1942, was said to be \$39,500.

Additional information as to this person's background indicates that while in Palestine he was reportedly interested in the growing and shipping of citrus fruits, as well as in the steamship business, in which latter endeavor he was reportedly associated with Pardes Syndicate Company, Ltd., Hifa, Palestine. In 1944 Ben-Nahum allegedly claimed he was a co-partner in the United States and Foreign Trading Company, 17 Battery Place, New York City, and in the Transmarine Company, 50 East 42nd Street. With regard to the last named organization, it is now reported that Ben-Nahum is no longer connected with it.

The following description has been given of Ben-Nahum: Born, July 14, 1905, Homel, Mohilev, Russia; citizenship, Palestinian; Alien Registration #5022618; height: 5 feet, 11 inches; weight: 157 pounds; eyes: hazel; hair: black; complexion: sallow; marital status: married - two children.

Ben-Nahum is a member of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

Allegations received with regard to this character in January, 1943, were to the effect that Ben-Nahum was a "slippery crook."

(100-139925-17)

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
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EH.WINTERROWD:LVO  
(12-9-44)

December 15, 1944

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(U) [redacted] together with six associates, has been alleged independently to be one of the actual founders, organizers and leaders, of the Committee for a Jewish Army, the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe, as well as a more recently established American League for a Free Palestine.

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(U) In August, 1940, a confidential source advised that articles appearing in the Yiddish vernacular press advocating the formation of a secret Zionist armed unit for the purpose of carrying out raids against the Arabs in Palestine, appeared to emanate from an office at [redacted] which was said to be occupied by one [redacted]

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In November of 1943, information unverified by investigation, was received, which indicated that [redacted] together with Bergson, [redacted] and [redacted] came to the United States as a delegation from the "Irgun."

In March of 1944, information unverified by investigation, was received that [redacted] described as a third generation Palestinian, had studied at the Hebrew University in Palestine, and later in Italy and in Vienna, Austria.

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It was reported in June, 1944, [redacted] joined the United States Armed Forces. [redacted]

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
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DATE OF REVIEW 2/23-89

605/bj 2-23-79

~~SECRET~~

December 15, 1944

PETER H. BERGSON, *Bergson*  
also known as Hillel Kook

The following background information concerning Bergson, unverified by investigation, has been received:

Bergson is described as being single and thirty-four years of age. He is related to have been born in Lithuania, the son of Rabbi Dov Kook. It is related that he studied typography, at the Hebrew University, although he claims to be a journalist. He is said to be a British citizen. In 1929 he allegedly became involved in riots between Arabs and Jews in Palestine, and at that time was also alleged to have been engaged in an organization to advance the Jews against the Arabs in Palestine. He subsequently is reported to have become affiliated with a group advocating "Free Immigration to Palestine." With regard to this group, it has been alleged that its real purpose was to smuggle into Palestine people outside of the immigration quota. In the year 1936 Bergson reportedly left Palestine for London where headquarters of his group were established. Later the remark "We have been responsible for 40,000 Jewish refugees having entered Palestine illegally from Europe during the past seven years" was attributed to Bergson. It is alleged that Bergson is not looked upon with favor by the British Government.

(100-309132-1; 100-257656-4)

Bergson, since he came to the United States, is said to have been most active from a policy making point of view, in the following organizations: American Friends of a Jewish Palestine, Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews, Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe; American League for a Free Palestine, Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

(100-309132-1)

In May, 1943, information was received that although Bergson had requested diplomatic immunity, a deportation order was then outstanding against him. In this regard, in a final plea before the Board of Immigration Appeals, Bergson is said to have requested the withdrawal of a pending arrest warrant issued against him for illegal residence in this country. It is said that during these proceedings Bergson made an application with the Department of State for a permanent visa so that he could continue his work on behalf of the "Hebrew people."

(100-310922-3-7)

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE  
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100-310922-9
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 19 1944
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

With regard to Bergson's reported attempt to maintain his status in the United States, it has been reliably reported that in November, 1942, Bergson communicated with a Governmental agency relating that he and five of his colleagues who were then in the United States as visitors, were in danger of being drafted into the United States Army. He is said to have expressed himself as being happy to fight in the United States Army, except for the fact that he and his colleagues shared the responsibility of a much larger issue, namely the raising of a Jewish Army of 200,000 men. He requested, according to the report, that his Draft Board be impressed with his noncombatant value to the United Nations.

Bergson and his activities have been publicly attacked in the press over a period of a year. The Communist Daily Worker has been most vociferous in its attacks. In addition, other legitimate news organs have branded Bergson as a representative of the "Irgun." It was claimed that he collected over one million dollars from the American people, although he "became vague" according to one news article when it was insisted that he tell what use had been made of the one million dollars. It is also pointed out that although Bergson refused British Army service on the ground that he wanted to fight in a Hebrew Army, he had made no attempt to join the Jewish Brigade which had already been formed. It was publicly stated at that time that Bergson was then appealing a 1-A classification from his Selective Service Board on the grounds of "indispensability."

(100-316012-8)

The Washington Post for October 4, 1944, carried an article which, in part, is as follows:

"Bergson admitted when questioned, however, that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, of which he is Chairman, is not American; has no right to collect funds; is taking no action toward the direct relief of Hebrews, and did not, to their knowledge, represent either European or Palestinian Hebrews."

¶ 100-316012-A-7)

Regarding Bergson's activities in the numerous committees and organizations referred to hereinbefore, it is reported that the American Zionist Emergency Council commented in a fashion which had been referred to as typical of the statements made by the more "solid" Jewish organizations;

"Bergson's action is an attempt to perpetrate a colossal hoax on the Jewish people."

The statement is said to have continued, warning the public, the press and officials not to be taken in by "the brazen fraud of a half dozen adventurers with no standing, credentials or mandate, except from pistol-packing Irgun."

(62-60950-42)

Public notice of the formation of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation under the leadership of Bergson, was first issued in May of 1944, at which time it was stated in the press that Bergson's Committee had recently purchased a building in Washington which was formerly the Iranian Embassy for the sum of \$63,000, and this building was subsequently to be referred to as the "Embassy" of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

(100-309132-1)

On July 19, 1944, a rally was sponsored by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation at Town Hall, New York City, at which time Bergson reportedly made the following five demands:

1. That the "Hebrew Nation" be recognized as a co-belligerent ally of the United States.
2. That the "Hebrew Nation" be given representation on the Inter-allied Commission on War Crimes and in the U.N.R.R.A.
3. That a Hebrew Army be created.
4. That Hebrews be admitted into refugee shelters in Palestine.
5. That the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation be recognized as the temporary representative of the "Hebrew Nation."

(100-316012-6)

An allegation unverified by other sources has been made to the effect that possibly Bergson's group may be making investments in the United States for Palestinians who ostensibly express the desire of making business investments in the United States, but who possibly have been forced by the "Irgun" to express those desires. Along with these allegations from this one source, came the report that one of Bergson's contacts in Palestine, who in early 1944 was interned, was [redacted] and further, that it is believed that one [redacted] (phonetic), who was admitted into the United States in 1939 shortly after he was released from internment in Palestine because of his activity with terrorist groups there, had been in contact with Bergson. (It is possible that this person is [redacted])

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E.H.WINTERROWD:ka  
12/7/44

December 15, 1944

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF A JEWISH PALESTINE

This organization was incorporated in the State of New York as of September 28, 1939. In its Articles of Incorporation, the purpose of the group was set forth as being to aid and assist Jewish refugees and other needy Jews in various countries desiring to immigrate to the territory comprised within the Palestine Mandate of 1922. The officers in the Articles of Incorporation were listed as: National Chairman, Honorable Edwin C. Johnson, United States Senator from Colorado; Honorary National Chairman, Colonel J. E. Paterson, D.S.O., Commander of Jewish Legionnaires of World War I. Among the Directors listed were: [REDACTED]

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(97-224-10, page 2)

In 1941 it was reliably reported that [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] of the American Friends of a Jewish Palestine, Incorporated, which then had its offices at 285 Madison Avenue, New York City. It was further alleged at that time that the organization had approximately 1,500 members, with offices in Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles. At that time it had a monthly publication with the title "Bulletin."

(97-224-3)

Prior to the time designated above as of October 28, 1940, it was announced by the Department of State that the American Friends of a Jewish Palestine, 285 Madison Avenue, New York City, had registered with the Secretary of State under the provisions of Section 3 of the Neutrality Act of 1939 for the solicitation and collection of contributions to be used in belligerent countries for medical aid and assistance, such as food and clothing, to relieve human suffering. Countries listed to which contributions were being sent were Poland, Germany, Palestine, France, and the United Kingdom.

(2-0-6X)

In December, 1941, it was reported that the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews rented quarters with the subject organization, and it was subsequently reported by a reliable confidential source that the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews was an outgrowth of the subject organization. It was at that time related that [REDACTED] appeared to dominate the offices of the Committee, and [REDACTED] of the Committee, was said to have formerly been [REDACTED] of the subject organization.

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Subsequently, in the early part of 1942, the subject organization was described as being defunct.

(100-71095-27)

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ENCLOSURE #1

December 15, 1944

**EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE  
THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE**  
(Emergency Conference to Save  
the Jewish People of Europe).

In July, 1944, the following information unverified by investigation, was made available by a confidential source:

This organization was created by the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe held in New York City at the Hotel Commodore during the period July 20-25, 1943, which conference was in turn called by the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews. The group behind the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe was identical with that behind the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews. The group is drawn from the Revisionist wing of the Zionist movement, described as an extreme Nationalistic group founded by Vladimir Jabotinsky, which later seceded from the long standing Zionist organizations.

The leaders of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe are six young men who arrived from Palestine in recent years. The most outstanding among them is Peter H. Bergson, a Palestinian citizen born in Palestine, who is the nephew of the former Chief Rabbi Kook of that country. He came to the United States in July, 1940, as "representative from Palestine without official status" to quote his own words. In Palestine Bergson headed the "Free Palestine Committee" set up in 1940 to aid the Jews of Europe. This, according to Bergson, was to be accomplished in two ways: 1. By the organization of a Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews and 2. by the "mobilization of public opinion" in the United States. The appeal was to be made to the Jews as a national rather than as a religious group. In 1929 Bergson became involved in riots between Arabs and Jews. He was engaged in an organization for the defense of Jews against the Arabs and participated in organizing the so-called "free immigration to Palestine" (which means smuggling in people outside the quota). In 1936 Bergson settled in London where the headquarters of his group was moved.

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ENCLOSURE #2

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

Next in importance is [redacted] of the subject organization. He came from Europe where he resided in various countries promoting the Revisionist Movement in such countries as France, Czechoslovakia, Poland, etc. He was one of the close followers of [redacted] (apparently [redacted] has been most instrumental in gaining the support of many known Jews in this country for the cause of the Jewish Army.

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[redacted] a Palestinian citizen, was also one of the leaders of the (Illegal) National Military Organization organized by the extreme Revisionist group in Palestine. At present he is a private in the United States Army.

[redacted] a Palestinian citizen, was closely associated with Bergson and [redacted] in their political activities in Palestine.

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[redacted] a Palestinian citizen, has been in the United States Army since December 7, 1943.

[redacted] of the New Zionist Organization (Revisionist group) in Palestine, is a member of the Emergency Committee's Executive body. He had been interned in Palestine for activities connected with the Arab-Jewish clashes. He came to the United States in February, 1941. He too, is a Palestinian citizen.

These are the founders, organizers and actual leaders of the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews, the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People in Europe, as well as the most recently established front group, the American League for a Free Palestine.

The Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe, at which the Emergency Committee was established, was timed to take place immediately after the Bermuda Conference which evoked criticism from many quarters. At the Emergency Conference a program was established for the removal of as many European Jews as possible to the neutral countries and to safe havens under United Nations control. To implement this program the United States and the United Nations were asked to create an official agency; guarantees were to be sought from Axis satellite countries to insure Jews the same treatment given to other nationals; pressure was to be brought on these countries to permit Jews to leave; neutrals were to be urged to grant the Jews temporary asylum and transit to territories under their control. Other points dealt with transportation problems and with reprisals against the Axis for the persecution of the Jews.



Neither the Emergency Conference nor the Emergency Committee received a mandate from any larger group within the American Jewish community. Representatives of the Jewish community questioned from the outset both the sincerity and effectiveness of the Emergency Committee. They felt that its main object was not to rescue the persecuted European Jews but rather creation of a strong vehicle for Revisionism, advocating a Jewish state in Palestine with a military, anti-British government. They believed that the Emergency Committee solicited support by exploiting the issues of the movement.

These suspicions are based on the group's methods of operation, most striking of which are the means employed by the Emergency Committee in its attempts to discredit the British Government in the United States and thus exert pressure for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. Such was the purpose of an advertisement in the big New York dailies during Prime Minister Churchill's visit to this country in the Spring of 1943. In one such advertisement Churchill was asked to yield the British Mandate over Palestine to the United States so that the rescue of European Jews could be facilitated.

Attempts have also been made by this Emergency Committee to harass the United States Government, with a view to forcing it to intervene with the British Government for Revisionist aims. Thus, on May 4, 1943, a full-page advertisement calling the Bermuda Conference a "gross mockery" appeared in the New York Times. Appended to the statement was a list of thirty-three Senators who had signed the Proclamation on the Moral Rights of the Stateless and Palestinian Jews to a Jewish Army, but who in no way supported the criticism of the Bermuda Conference. Later strong criticisms emanated from the Senate from members who had supplied their names, advocating a Jewish Army, but who declared they did not agree with the criticism of the State Department by "aliens."

Similar tactics were employed in an advertisement on November 5, 1943, the central feature of which was "My Uncle Abraham Reports..." verses by Ben Recht sharply critical of and sarcastic about the State Department and the Christian community because of their supposed apathy and because of their failure to do anything concrete about the mass murder of the Jews of Europe.

No less distressing to responsible American Jews and representative Jewish organizations was the organized march of several hundred orthodox rabbis to the Capitol in Washington on October 6, 1943. Acting on good faith that the proper preparations for their arrival had been made they went there with a petition, urging the creation of a "special inter-governmental agency to save the remnant of Israel in Europe, with powers to act at once on a large scale." It soon became evident that no arrangements had been made for the reception by the President and that the Vice President who accepted the petition, acquitted himself with but a general remark. The total effect of this publicity stunt was a feeling of embarrassment on the part of the President and his Administration and among the large sections of the Jewish community.

A further step of the Emergency Committee to push its plans was the establishment of a Washington Committee on December 6, 1943, under the [redacted]

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[redacted] The immediate purpose of the Committee was to present the Jewish rescue problem to Congress and the members of the Administration with a view to definite action along the lines of the Baldwin-Rogers Resolution which was also formulated on the advice of the Emergency Committee and against that of the large Jewish groups. The Baldwin-Rogers Resolution asked the creation by the President of a Commission of Diplomatic, Economic and Military experts charged with the responsibility for immediate action in behalf of the Jews in Axis-conquered countries. Since the appointment of a War Refugee Board, the sponsors of the Resolution have declared that they will withdraw it since the War Refugee Board makes unnecessary the creation of such a Commission.

Of the major Jewish agencies, some have expressed the opinion that the work of the Emergency Committee was irresponsible, while others remained aloof. The opponents hold that the prerequisite for the launching of a constructive rescue program for the Jews of Europe is assured collaboration on the part of the Administration and not action which would antagonize it. They also maintain (as already indicated), that the funds collected and the publicity for the Emergency Committee is for Revisionist propaganda purposes and not for the liberation of the Jews in Europe. The large Jewish organizations, including the American

Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Labor Committee, the Synagogue Council of America and others, have been actively engaged in the rescue program of this sort. These bodies, established in early 1943, an Emergency Committee for European Jewish Affairs which had been negotiating with the State Department.

By virtue of its sensational advertisements and vigorous campaigning, the Emergency Committee has been able to marshal the support of many prominent national figures who, moved by humanitarian sympathy for the oppressed Jews, in turn impressed the general public with the belief that the Emergency Committee is the spokesman for all American Jews and identical with other organizations attempting rescue work. However, a number of prominent Jewish groups and organizations criticized the campaign of the Emergency Committee most severely, including the Jewish Morning Journal, the Yiddisher Renfer, the Jewish Frontier, and the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference.

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In addition to the foregoing information concerning this organization, it was publicly announced in July, 1943, that at the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe, at the Hotel Commodore, New York City, the following persons took an active part: Max Lerner of the newspaper PM;

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(100-120277-A New York Times, 7-22-43)

On August 6, 1943, it was publicly announced that [redacted] of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, made the following statement:

"We hear it said on all sides that nothing can be done for the Jewish people until after the war. This is not true! Our present silence is growing audible in Berlin. For us to say that we will do our best to find a solution for the Jewish question after the war is a mockery and only evokes laughter in hell."

In this public announcement he is said to have called upon the President of the United States and Prime Minister of Great Britain to issue a solemn warning of future reprisals against all persons guilty of participation in the efforts to exterminate the Jews and urged the creation of an inter-Governmental agency to act immediately for the rescue of Jewish people of Europe. New York Times 8-6-43, 100-120277-A

In the August 12, 1943, issue of the New York Times, a half page advertisement appeared as inserted by the Emergency Committee. This advertisement included the program adopted at the Emergency Conference held July 20-25, 1943. A photostatic copy of this advertisement is attached.

Again in the New York Times of August 30, 1943, another advertisement published by the subject organization appeared consuming approximately one-half of the page. A photostatic copy of this advertisement is attached and it bears the heading "We All Stand Before the Bar of Humanity, History and God."

On October 17, 1943, the newspaper PM carried an article entitled "State Department Blocks Plan to Rescue European Jews." This article dealt with accusations made by prominent people against the State Department against the alleged "run-around" given to a group which at the time was endeavoring to rescue Jews from Nazi occupied Europe. The group named was the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe. The name Peter Bergson was listed as being co-chairman of the Conference. In addition it was stated in the article that [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] American Labor Party leader and Peter Bergson met with the Secretary of State on August 12, at which time they reportedly proposed: The sending of three delegations abroad, each of three men, one going to Spain, the second going to Palestine and the third going to Turkey. The purpose of the delegations was to make arrangements for finding temporary havens for Jewish refugees. A proposal was also made that temporary camps be established for persons of Jewish extraction in five countries, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Portugal and Morocco. Subsequently, apparently after alleged inaction on the part of the State Department, a public statement was made in behalf of the Committee that a "show-down" was going to be forced with the State Department. (Newspaper PM, 10-17-43 p.6; 100-120277)

Again, on October 21, 1943, a large advertisement entitled "It Can Be Done" was inserted in the New York Times of that date by the Emergency Committee. A photostatic copy of this advertisement is attached.



The Washington Daily News of November 24, 1943, carried an article entitled "Fight Frenzied for Group to Save European Jews." This article quoted statements said to have been made by Bergson as co-chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jews of Europe in a hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The Inter-Governmental Committee quite rightly insists that Poles stay in Poland and Czechs stay in Czechoslovakia and oppose the Nazis as best they can, adding "That meant death for Jews that are marked for extermination." The article advised that a plan was outlined by Bergson and other witnesses representing his organization which urged the formation of a special commission of military and economic experts to make and "effectuate" plans to save surviving Jews of Europe.

This same article advised that in answer to a question relative to the wisdom of setting up a public agency to undertake a task which would have to be done "undercover" Bergson advised that "there is nothing to lose. There is a moral objective as well - impressing the world with the concern of this country for the Jews."

The article further advised that Bergson was asked whether one of his objectives was "forcing the British to change their policy." Bergson is said to have replied that a petition circulated by the Emergency Committee had nothing to do with his support of the resolution which had only one purpose - to get the Jews out of Nazi dominated countries where they are marked for murder.

The article also advised that at the hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Bergson denied the resolutions sponsored by the Emergency Committee were being used to raise money.

(Washington Daily News 11-24-43; 100-120277-A)

Still another large advertisement appeared in the New York Times of November 24, 1943, which bore the heading "How Well Are You Sleeping?" The advertisement was placed in the newspaper by the Emergency Committee. A photostatic copy of this advertisement is attached.

(New York Times, 11-24-43, p.13 100-120277-A)

The Washington Daily News of December 7, 1943, contains an article entitled "Group Formed to Help Jewish Victims of War." This article announces an outgrowth of the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe held in New York City on July 20-25, 1944, in the form of the Washington Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. The purpose of the Washington Committee was stated to be the presentation of the Jewish rescue problem to Congress and to Administration members. [redacted] was announced as [redacted] of the Washington Committee.

(Washington Daily News 12-7-43; 100-120277-A)

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On December 17, 1943, a large advertisement appeared in the New York Times page 31, entitled "Time Races Death". This advertisement was placed in the paper by the Emergency Committee. A photostatic copy of the advertisement is attached.

A news article appearing in the December 31, 1943, issue of the New York Times advised that the American Jewish Conference on the previous day assailed the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe as one of a "series of fronts" whose leaders had "constantly assumed to speak for the Jewish people in this country without having or endeavoring to secure a mandate from any constituency.....discord resulting frequently in a disservice to the cause they had assumed to represent." It was further stated in this article, which statement was attributed to the American Jewish Conference, that "Instead of cooperating with established and recognized national Jewish agencies, they have entered into competition and sought to undermine them. They have conjured up the illusion of activity by press agency, financed by the appeals for contributions invariably accompanying their advertisements."

The statement issued by the American Jewish Conference as reported in the above designated newspaper article is also said to have recalled that an advertisement by the Emergency Committee implied that 70,000 Roumanian Jews could be saved at a cost of \$50 each. It was stated in this regard: "From the content and phrasing of this advertisement, many persons were led to believe that a \$50 contribution would save a Jewish life. The public is waiting to hear how many Jews were ransomed with the money that was collected and what disposition was made of the money."

(12-31-43 p.10, New York Times) 100-120277-A

It was reported in January, 1944, that a form letter circulated by the Postwar World Council advised that this organization in turn supported the program of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. This organization, the Postwar World Council, has been reported to be a Socialist Party front.

(100-27301-4 p.43-44)

An additional large advertisement appeared in the Washington Post for Monday, May 29, 1944, as inserted by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People. A photostatic copy of this is attached, which is entitled "25 Square Miles or 2,000,000 Lives, Which Shall It Be?"

(Washington Post 5-29-44 p.9; 100-120277)

E.H.WINTERROWD:ka  
12/7/44

December 15, 1944

THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION *Summary*

The following information, unverified by investigation, has been voluntarily submitted with respect to this organization:

On May 18, 1944, the establishment of an "Embassy" in Washington, D. C., for a proposed Hebrew Nation in Palestine was announced. This was ascribed by the source to be the climax of a series of activities in the United States on the part of a small number of Palestinian citizens for a period of some three years. It was alleged that the group first called itself the Free Palestine Committee and finally became known as the subject organization. It was said that during these three years considerable publicity was engaged in by these Palestinian citizens in the United States. The campaign was said to have been conducted in the face of considerable opposition from established American-Jewish leadership, principally that of powerful Zionist groups. It was said that the Palestinian sponsors of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation come from the "extreme right wing" of the Zionist movement, known as the Revisionist Party, and were charged with being representatives of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, which is said to be the terrorist group engaging in violence in Palestine. During the course of activities of this group it was said it secured the support and endorsement of many prominent American non-Jews, including members of Congress, Government officials, and other public figures.

The source pointed out that the aim of the group was ostensibly to secure the moral and financial support of American people for proposals to form an army of Palestinian and Stateless Jews to secure free Jewish immigration into Palestine and to set up finally an independent "Hebrew Nation." It was related further that by means of full-page advertisements in the press, by benefit performances, and other functions, the group sought to raise funds and to enroll members for a series of several American groups which were being sponsored, the most important of which were the Committee for a Jewish Army, the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, and the American League for a Free Palestine. (This last named organization has in turn sponsored and promoted, at least on paper, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.)

It was further pointed out that the Free Palestine Committee (the original group) consisted of seven persons, all but one of whom were Palestinians, and who allegedly left their homeland separately during the period 1939-1941, met in the United States later, and began formulating their program. The leader of the group was described as being Peter Bergson, son of Rabbi Dovkook of Jerusalem, and nephew of the late Chief Rabbi Kook of Palestine. The others were: [redacted]

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GAS/bh

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ENCLOSURE #3

*[Handwritten signature]*

[REDACTED]

It was further related that with the announcement of the opening of the "Embassy" in Washington, the Free Palestine Committee emerged under the name "Hebrew Committee of National Liberation." Two additional persons were said to have been included, [REDACTED]

It was announced publicly that \$62,000 had been paid for the former Iranian Legation home. To finance subsequent activities, it is said that the Committee desired to float a one-million-dollar ten-year bond issue, and in this regard had sought the ways and means to make such an issue possible under regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

It is said that with the establishment of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and the announcement of its program, a number of Zionist groups which have in the past advocated the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine attacked Bergson's group publicly. Among the groups were the American Zionist Emergency Council and the Hadassah. In addition, the Communist press, including the Jewish Communist publication "Morgen Freiheit," attacked the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and asserted that its functionary represented the "Irgun."

The source from which the foregoing information was forthcoming also informed that while relationship between the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and the "Irgun" in Palestine has not been admitted, there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to justify charges which have been made. It has been pointed out by this source that no denial of the charge of "Irgun" connections has been made, and further that [REDACTED] who had returned to Palestine in early 1944 to serve as the group's representative, was arrested in Tel-Aviv in April, 1944, at the time when there had been terrorist outbreaks for which the "Irgun" allegedly admitted responsibility.

In this case regard it has been pointed out that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation's magazine, "The Answer," for May, 1944, reprinted two American newspaper articles discussing the then recent violence in Palestine in a somewhat sympathetic tone. It has been said that comment was added suggesting that the terrorist activities of the "Irgun" might be excusable. It has been also alleged that the term "Committee of National Liberation" has been one which has been used by members of the "Irgun" in Palestine who are alleged to have on occasions likened themselves to Marshal Tito's Partisans. It was also said that Bergson at the opening of the Washington "Embassy" remarked that "the Jews in Palestine are not free to speak as a nation short of a successful revolution." This statement, it was alleged, resembled the objectives of the "Irgun." (OSS report No. 191, June 6, 1944.

100-316012-6)

Prior to the public announcement of the opening of the "Hebrew Embassy," there was circulated in April, 1944, a form letter on the stationery of the American League for a Free Palestine which continued after an introduction pointing out the extreme hardships of Hebrew people in Europe:



"In view of the situation, we, a group of Americans, responding to an appeal by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, decided to launch a vigorous campaign with the following three fold purpose:  
(a) To open the doors of Palestine to the escaping Hebrews of Europe;  
(b) To bring about the formation of a Hebrew Palestine Army to participate in the invasion of Europe and the occupation of Germany;  
(c) To secure recognition of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine as a nation with rights of representation in the councils of the United Nations and at the peace table."

The above referred to letter went on to state that an inaugural congress of the American League for a Free Palestine would be held in June, 1944.  
(100-299904)

Later, under date of June 23, 1944, the American League for a Free Palestine, Incorporated, circulated another form letter in which it was stated:

"The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, temporary trustee of Hebrew national interests in behalf of the Stateless and Palestinian Hebrews, has issued a call for aid. These European and Palestinian Hebrews are a separate and distinct people, not to be confused with Americans or other nationals of the Jewish faith, living in countries of their birth or adoption.

"The American League for a Free Palestine is a non-sectarian organization created in response to this call. It is sponsored by a cross-section of leading Americans who give their whole-hearted support to this movement for national liberation."

Enclosed with the June 23, 1944, issue was a four-page leaflet which bears on its first page a picture of the "Hebrew Embassy" located at 2815 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C. A photostatic copy of this leaflet is attached.

As regards a possible route of funds distributed by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, the following information is submitted as in turn received from a confidential source:

One [redacted] wrote Bergson under date of July 12, 1944, at 2817 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C. In this letter, according to the source, [redacted] referred to one [redacted] possibly [redacted] who had recently passed through Palestine en route to Turkey. [redacted] advised Bergson that he had waiting for transmittal \$5,000 to be used by [redacted] also advised in the letter that the only place where this money could be sent was Turkey. (It is to be recalled that [redacted] left the United States during the early part of 1944 for the Middle East, reportedly on a mission for the War Refugee Board and reportedly as a representative of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, which latter group is one in which Bergson has been interested.)

(100-316012-7)

In the early part of October, 1944, the Washington Post ran a series of articles relative to Bergson, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and affiliated groups. In an article appearing in the October 3, 1944, issue of this newspaper, Bergson is quoted as having said:

"Relief work has been a small part of our work. Our major activity is to mobilize the understanding and help of American people for an integral and positive solution of the problems of the Jewish people in Europe...we have been responsible for forty thousand Jewish refugees having entered Palestine illegally from Europe during the past seven years; I and my workers managed to accomplish this feat through underground methods."

This same article pointed out that a number of prominent people, both in the United States Government and out, denounced Bergson and his group for the unauthorized use of their names in connection with the literature of the group which was distributed as well as functions it sponsored.

(100-316012-8)



December 15, 1944

~~PHILAS DELOUGAZ~~ Summary

Delougaz, who has been described as an engineer and archaeologist, was reportedly born June 16, 1901 at Polonnoe, Russia. As of 1941, he is said to have claimed Palestinian citizenship. He is said to be a member of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and in 1941 was a member and a sponsor, according to reports received, of the New Zionist Organization. (40-22638-)

It has been reported further, that during 1941, Delougaz was connected in various capacities with Communist groups, some of which were alleged to be the following:

1. Sponsor for National Conference on Constitutional Liberties.
2. Legal Adviser of Chicago Committee on Conscientious Objectors, which is reportedly a part of the Midwest Civil Liberties Committee.

3. [REDACTED]

Misc per protective court order NLG v. AG

4. Chairman, Midwest Conference of American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.
5. Illinois Conference for Social Legislation. (40-22638-)

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

229 Hld  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-23-79 BY 2333

GAS/bk

ENCLOSURE #5

December 15, 1944

GABRIEL A. WECHSLER *Summary*

Wechsler served as the secretary of the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews during its existence. A confidential source has advised that Wechsler can be described as a "slick politician, lecturer and insurance man" who has been active in local politics in New York City. He is said to have been at one time secretary of the City Fusion Party and to have had considerable influence with the Mayor's office in New York City.

He is approximately forty-three years of age. In the past he reportedly was occupied as a stock auction broker, and at one time served as treasurer of David Fowler, Inc., 19 Rector Street, New York City. As of November 24, 1941, his occupation was given as that of Corps Inspector, Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, Municipal Building, New York City. (100-71095-27,29)

In July, 1944, a confidential source reported his attendance at a cocktail party for the press given by the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews on July 15, 1944, at the Committee's office, 535 4th Avenue, New York City. The source advised he was introduced to [redacted] by Gabriel Wechsler, who introduced the source to [redacted] and indicated that [redacted] was "our political contactman and diplomatic agent." b6 b7C

According to a large advertisement in the New York Times of July 13, 1943, Wechsler was conference secretary of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. The Conference was held July 20-25, 1943. (100-120277-)

The September 1, 1943, issue of the Daily Worker carried an article relative to political candidates for the office of Councilman in New York City. It was indicated in the article that Gabriel A. Wechsler "Fusionist" was a candidate for the City Council from Kings County, New York City. (Daily Worker 9-1-43, 100-3-4-A)

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

229,461  
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DATE 2-23-79 BY 2333  
GAS/bj

ENCLOSURE #10

llp  
American Embassy  
London, England  
January 18, 1945

Communication 4540  
VIA US ARMY COURIER SERVICE

ATTENTION: SIS EUROPEAN DESK

Director, FBI  
Washington, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

Classified by ~~SP/CSK/PYK~~  
Declassify on: OADR  
2/18/6

Dear Sir:

Re: HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION  
(Peter H. Bergson, alias Hillel Kook)

Reference is made to your letter of December 16, 1944,  
furnishing a series of memoranda prepared at the Bureau in connection  
with the above subject. I made these available to MI-5 for their  
information and I have now received the following from [redacted]  
of the British Security Service (MI-5): (S)

"Very many thanks for letting us see the Bureau's notes on the  
Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and on the individuals  
associated with Peter BERGSON (Your letter of 4.1.45 No. 1350),  
which I now return. (U)

"I enclose a copy of some notes derived from our records on the  
same subject which we sent to Security Co-ordination in reply to  
an enquiry from them. A supplementary note gives brief particulars  
of three other individuals not included in the Security Co-ordination  
enquiry. Apart from these, we have no significant records of any  
of the persons mentioned in the Catling report, although further  
research may reveal fresh material. The above account also excepts  
[redacted] about whose activities, chiefly in  
connection with the London Committee for a Jewish Army, we have a  
good deal of information. Some of this is incorporated in my note  
on BERGSON. [redacted] has consistently opposed the tendency of the  
BERGSON group to dissipate their energy by forming a number of com-  
mittees for widely different purposes. He himself prefers to con-  
centrate on the idea of a Jewish Army. In this connection, it is  
worth noting that he often advocates the formation of guerilla units  
and suicide squads. (U)

[redacted] has often complained of the  
interest shown by BERGSON's Committee towards his own Committee  
in London. There has been a tendency for the latter to become  
more and more independent of the parent Committee of the U.S.

RECORDED & INDEXED 12 100-310922-11  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JAN 22 1945  
CLAS. BY 6333  
REASON FCIM 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-9-84  
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL - 3

~~SECRET~~

32 FEB 3 1945

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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-310922-11



As a token of this the word 'Anglo-American' was dropped from its official title in August 1943. [ ] still however depends to a certain extent on the U.S. Committee for financial support. He has specifically stated that small sums are not wanted since the day to day working needs of his office are easily met by funds raised over here. He has however on occasions asked for a large sum to help finance a special campaign. This explains the telegram quoted in the Bureau's note where application is made for £2000. ~~(U)~~ b6 b7C

"Another interesting point is that [ ] has always steered clear of the political dissension which is characteristic of Revisionist organisations all over the world. He has managed to remain on passable terms with the two opposing New Zionist groups in London and one of his most loyal supporters has been the editor of the "Jewish Chronicle" - an orthodox Zionist newspaper. ~~(U)~~

"We have no record of any communist interest in [ ] Marine League as is suggested in the Bureau's note. On the face of it this would be unlikely. ~~(U)~~

"I have recently come across an interesting item concerning the relation between BERGSON's Committee and Palestine. On 10.9.43 [ ] leader in Jerusalem, sent the following telegram to [ ] at the office of the Army Committee ~~(U)~~

'Suggest forming permanent office Jerusalem Istanbul representing and sending delegates your behalf am ready act chief representative stop sending another delegate next week stop cable immediately 800 pounds discharging debts made here and undertake contribute minimum 650 pounds monthly maintaining saving activities upon your affirmative reply shall go Turkey to make arrangements.' ~~(U)~~ b6 b7C

(3) "You are no doubt aware that [ ] disclaims any responsibility for the activities of the Irgun which, he maintains, does not accept the discipline of his purely political organisation. His explanation of the request for such large sums of money would no doubt be that they were required for organising the escape and welfare of Jewish refugees from the Balkans. [ ] ~~(U)~~ b1 b6 b7C

"Our representative in Palestine has recently informed us that in April 1944 [ ] in Washington telegraphed to [ ] an advocate in Tel Aviv, asking him to act as representative for the American League for a Free Palestine. He was also advised to contact [ ] replied that he could not accept without further information although he was prepared to act in his professional capacity in legal matters. ~~(U)~~ b6 b7C

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- 3 - ~~SECRET~~

[ ] has for some time been closely connected with the N.Z.O. and has defended many of its members including [ ] Recent reports suggest that he is deeply involved in the activities of the Irgun. He is at present on a visit to this country." ~~(U)~~ b6 b7C

The enclosure mentioned in the second paragraph of [ ] letter entitled "PETER H. BERGSON @ HILLET COOK. THEODORE BEN-NAHUM @ KOPELOWICZ; [ ] is attached for the Bureau's information as well as the supplementary note on [ ] Copies of these two memoranda are not being retained in the files of this office. ~~(U)~~

Very truly yours,

M. Joseph Lynch  
Legal Attache ~~(U)~~

Enclosure

MJL:FME

~~SECRET~~



(U)

(U) 1. Peter H. BERGSON @ HILLEL COOK.

B. Lithuania c. 1909. Said to have lived in Palestine for 18 years. The following information is derived principally from correspondence intercepted by censorship.

In August 1940 Vladimir JABOTINSKY, founder of the New Zionist Organisation, informed [ ] in Palestine that HILLEL had arrived in the United States to initiate a financial drive. In April 1941, the headquarters of the Betar (N.Z. Youth Movement) in New York, informed [ ] a member of the NZO executive in London, that Cook had left the headquarters two months ago, apparently with the intention of forming a new organisation. He failed to achieve this and was considering returning to the parent organisation on condition that he was made director of the Political Department, that [ ] was reinstated and that [ ] was appointed [ ].

Shortly afterwards it was reported that negotiations between COOK and the NZO executive (Nessiut) had broken down since COOK had refused to accept the condition that the policy of the American Friends of Palestine, one of his committees, should be controlled by the Nessiut.

In March 1942 [ ] an active Revisionist in London previously connected with the Organisation of the Jewish Marine League, wrote to BERGSON (as he was called by then) introducing himself and asking if BERGSON could find him some work to do in the U.K. for the New Zionist cause. [ ] complained that he was not taken seriously by the N.Z.O. in London who referred to his ideas as moonshine.

In June of the same year. [ ] of the N.Z. Emergency Committee - a dissident branch of the Revisionists in London - offered his congratulations to [ ] and BERGSON for the remarkable achievements of their American Committee for a Jewish Army, although he did not always approve of the methods they employed. After discussing the work which [ ] was doing in London in conjunction with the American Committee, [ ] says: "What is our friend HILLEL doing in his private life? My information from Palestine about his organisation is rather alarming".

In September 1942 BERGSON was quoted as head of the Political Department of the American Committee for a Jewish Army. In September 1943 [ ] in a letter to Palestine, gave the following description of the origin of the Committee for a Jewish Army. "A circular letter was written to a hundred prominent men whose names were taken out of the Who's Who, explaining the necessity to form a Jewish Army and asking them to join the Committee in formation. 10 replied joining the Committee. A second circular letter was sent out to a thousand on stationery bearing the names of the 10 who previously had replied "yes". The same procedure was repeated several times until today we have something like 10,000 names of people who consider themselves prominent on the various committees which have developed from the Committee for a Jewish Army."

... "In January, 1942, Peter Bergson, who is the leading spirit of the whole group, hit upon a new idea. We bought a page in the "New York Times" and advertised the Committee for a Jewish Army just as you would advertise Chevrolet motor cars or Players cigarettes. The full page advertisement created a sensation. A coupon under the advertisement asked the public to send in their names and a contribution to cover the expenses. The results were so encouraging that we have since kept up a campaign of full page advertisements throughout the country. The advertisements have appeared in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago and Los Angeles at regular

~~SECRET~~

/intervals.

Classified by ~~SP-1~~  
Declassify on: OADR  
4/3/04

CLASSIFIED BY ~~SP-1~~  
REASON FOR EXCLUSION ~~1.2.1.2~~  
DATE OF REVIEW ~~3-11-20~~

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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

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b7C

b6  
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b7C

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intervals. Other cities like Detroit, San Francisco, Houston, (Texas) and others, have had one or two advertisements each. The result was astounding. We became the best known Jewish organization among the Gentiles". After describing a new field for the Committee's activities, the saving of the Jews of Europe, (U) [redacted] says: "The work is becoming exciting. Unfortunately the whole burden is carried by five or six Palestinians including [redacted] who, although he never visited Palestine, is a Palestinian".

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(U) In November 1943 the U.S. Branch of the N.Z.O. suggested to the U.S. Emergency Council (an old Zionist organization) that they should form a combined front against the BERGSON group.

(U) In January 1944 [redacted] a Revisionist in the U.S.A. gave an account to [redacted] of the N.Z.O. in London, of a meeting between the U.S. branch of the N.Z.O. and the BERGSON group. BERGSON and [redacted] were reported to have said that 1. they were not Revisionists, 2. they consider the Revisionist organization as meaningless, 3. any attachment on their part to Revisionism was harmless to Jewish interests which they claimed to represent, 4. they refused to undertake any fight against the present policy in Palestine.

b6  
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(U) In July 1944 we received information that BERGSON was to be inducted into the U.S. Army but that he had stated his intention of opting for H.M. Forces.

(U) In August 1944 the U.S. branch of the N.Z.O. was criticising the Hebrew Committee for its un-Zionist attitude. The following extract is quoted verbatim from a letter from [redacted] of the U.S. N.Z.O. to [redacted] in London.

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"The newly formed committee is an outgrowth of the 'Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe' with which we have had no contact. The Emergency Committee's campaign clashed with our Revisionist convictions and followed closely in the footsteps of the American Jewish Congress, which is a non-Zionist body. It failed to emphasize the Palestine problem and even, when mentioning Palestine, reiterated the demand that the political aspect of the Palestine situation should not be touched upon, as if anything could be effected with regard to the Palestine question without touching upon its political aspects! It culminated in the open non-Zionist slogan of 'free ports for refugees in the United States', and what is worse, it helped to create a lot of confusion in the minds of those who were not well informed on the Jewish question. We could tolerate this line of agitation so long as it did not attack our basic principles. After all, there are many Jewish organizations in this country who advocate the same measures. We had to ignore all of them and do our utmost to make our voice more pronounced and more effective. But when the group created the 'Hebrew Committee for National Liberation' and clearly announced that the Jews of America and other Western countries are outside the realm of Jewish nationality and the Jewish problem, we had to declare against them openly, not only because their activity was associated with our organization, but also because we firmly believed that this sort of campaign, if developed on a large scale, embraced a serious danger to our entire Zionist undertaking.

(U) "After our public denunciation of their policies and actions, Mr. BERGSON, who has long repudiated his association with the N.Z.O., and some of his co-workers, made an attempt to destroy the N.Z.O. by creating the fiction of the 'Zionist-Revisionist' organization, composed of the handful of former revisionists who are paid workers of the committee. The purpose of this organization is to create the impression that the party is split and that there is neither a united policy nor a united front among its workers.

~~SECRET~~

"Following....

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(U) "Following the usual superficial and, we may say, deceitful approach to the American Jews which was employed by the Zionists and the philanthropists ("give money for relief, or for saving souls"), they succeeded in mobilising considerable funds which, in our opinion, they have been wasting for completely ineffective propaganda from a political point of view. They have few friends and many enemies and although they may exist, they have no chance of developing a large following in this country because they have no political idea based upon the realities of Jewish life and representing a clear-cut departure from that of other groups, as that of political Zionism. ~~X~~

(U) "Not only in Jewish life, but also in the Gentile world, can their political friends be counted on the fingers of one hand, and it should be added that none of those whom they approached was enlightened on the full impact of the Jewish or Palestine question. ~~X~~

(U) "Matters have reached such a state that those of their Gentile friends who were convinced Zionists or were later informed on the real issue which confronts Zionism, left them because of the pronounced non-Zionist stand of the committee. The case of [redacted] is well-known and the attached clipping from the New York Times [redacted] is further illustrative of this situation. American Gentiles have to teach these people what Zionism is!" ~~X~~

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(U) In September 1944 BERGSON sent to [redacted] a number of documents relating to the activities of the recently formed Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. They included a letter dated 16.9.44 written by Louis BROMFIELD the U.S. novelist, a co-Chairman of the American League for a Free Palestine (one of BERGSON's Committees). It is in reply to a query from a correspondent who had heard the accusation that the leaders of the BERGSON group, who were at one time members of the Irgun, were using their committee as "one of the fronts for one of the irresponsible terrorist groups in Palestine". Bromfield attributed these rumours to the British Government and certain elements in the Democratic Party who find the activities of the Committee embarrassing. ~~X~~

(U) Another enclosure was a copy of a telegram from the Hebrew Committee to the Polish Committee of National Liberation (the "Dublin Committee") conveying greetings and asking them to help [redacted] and [redacted] ~~X~~

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(U) In October 1944 a series of articles appeared in the Washington Post exposing the activities of the Hebrew Committee. [redacted] who formerly worked with BERGSON, was quoted as saying that two of BERGSON's organisations were sponsored by the Irgun. ~~X~~

(U) Ten days after the first article appeared a retraction was published. In particular the newspaper stated that 'it did not propose to try to trace any tie-up between the Hebrew Committee and the terrorists in Palestine'. ~~X~~

2. ~~Theodore BEN-NAHUM~~ ~~AKA~~ ~~KOPEL~~ OVITCH. ~~X~~

(U) We have no certain record of this man. [redacted] a Pole who was in the U.K. from 1937 to 1940, was at one time a prominent Revisionist in the U.S. In December 1940 BERGSON referred to him as "an exceptionally fine fellow". Our latest material record dated January 1943 shows that he had quarrelled with the Nessiut in the U.S.A. Although he favoured a Jewish Army Scheme and the idea of a Jewish State, the fact that he had also quarrelled with [redacted] makes his identification with a member of the BERGSON group doubtful without further information. ~~X~~

b6  
b7C

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3. [redacted]

(U) In October 1939 [redacted] while in Paris, received a telegram from [redacted] a Warsaw Revisionist, who was at that time in London, asking him to contact Jacoby at a Hotel in Paris. The latter was a Revisionist connected with arms trafficking. He died in 1939.

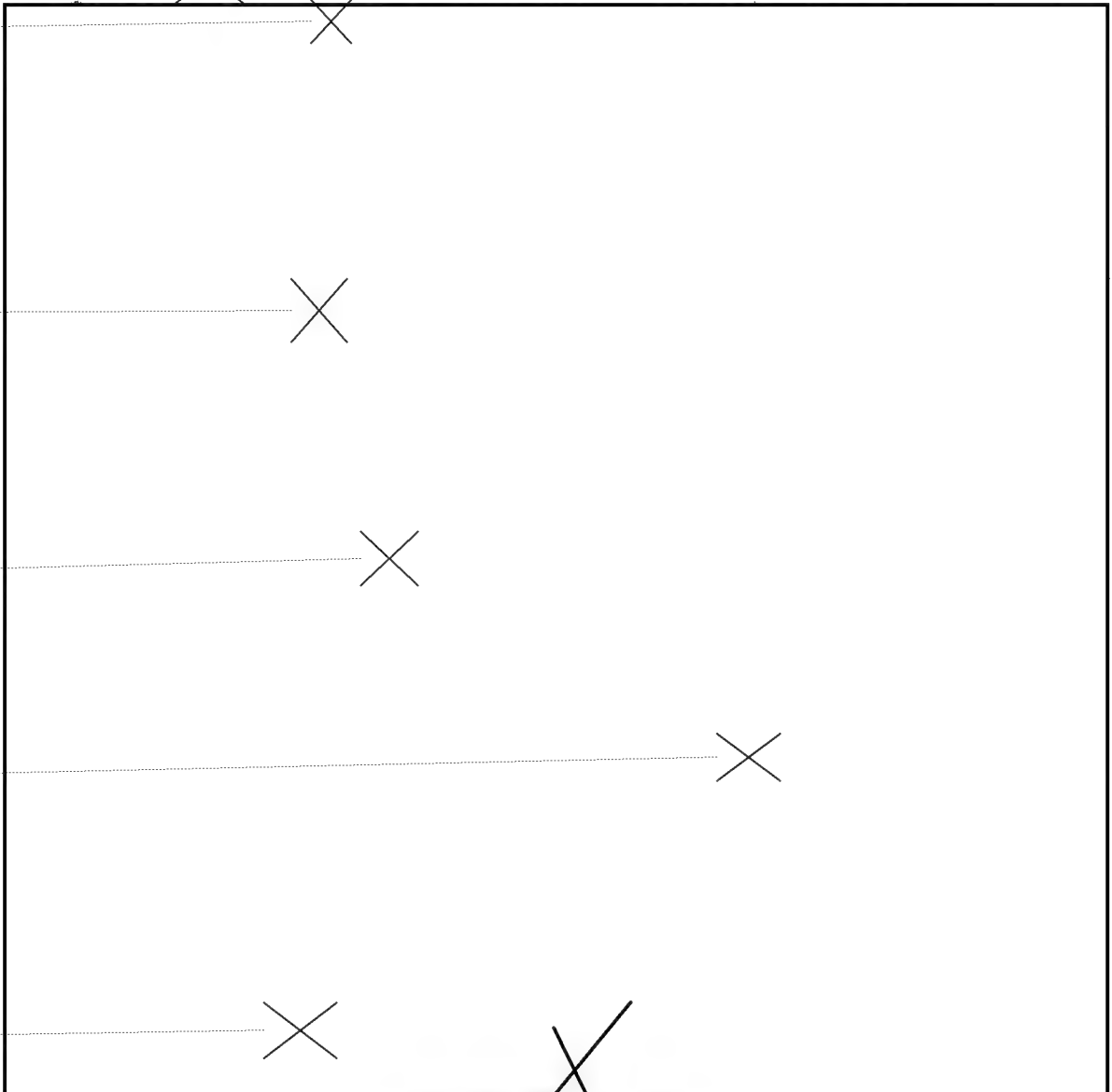
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(U) In December 1940 [redacted] was referred to as being connected with HILML COOK. Since that date [redacted] name often appears in correspondence connected with the BERGSON Group.

(U) In August 1942 [redacted] was [redacted] of the Department of Information and Public Relations of the Committee of the Jewish Army.

(U) In May 1944 [redacted] received a letter from [redacted] of the Dissident Emergency Committee in London. (See above). It appears that [redacted] had been offered the post of London correspondent of a News Agency sponsored by the BERGSON Group. [redacted] provisionally accepted the offer but asked for further details of the exact status of the Agency. He asked [redacted] to send him an official authorisation in order that he could obtain access to official sources in London. He also asked for the name of [redacted] to be included in the letter of authorisation. (The latter is known to us as a Revisionist but he does not appear to have played any active part during the eight years he has been in this country).

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b7C



b6  
b7C



# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

67-3683

OHS:HS

TO : DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE: February 12, 1945

FROM : GUY HOTTEL, SAC WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT: PETER BERGSON  
SECURITY MATTER - X

(U) [ ] From a highly confidential source it has been ascertained that [ ] of the Czechoslovakian Embassy was furnished information by the British Embassy on February 2, 1945 concerning the above captioned name. (S)

[ ] was advised by [ ] of the British Embassy that the British did not pay any attention to BERGSON or reply to his letters relative to the relief of the persecuted Jewish people of Europe. BERGSON is head of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and according to [ ] is an "Irgan" (phonetic), Jewish Terrorist Army and is a citizen of Palestine. He is going under an alias and his real name is KOOK. He is believed to be a grandson of the old Palestine Rabbi DOLF (phonetic) KOOK. [ ] expressed the opinion that he is a mixture of missionary and crook. He expressed the opinion that he is probably sincere in his principles but employs disreputable methods in connection with his raising of funds. BERGSON is behind four or five committees such as the Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, Hebrew Liberation, Free Palestine Committee; and the Committee for a Palestine Army. [ ] advised that the official Zionists here such as [ ] and [ ] disapprove of BERGSON. (S) (U)

The above is being furnished for the information of the Bureau and inasmuch as it has been obtained from a highly, confidential source it should not be disclosed to any outside agency. (S) (U)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF *Class 10/2/45*  
DATE *2/17/45*

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Declassify on: OADR  
*233271 2/7/84*

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*112*

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

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52 FEB 22 1945

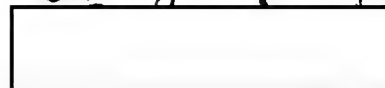
## Office Memorandum •• UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT


JKM:PC


TO : MR. D. M. LADD *DL*  
 FROM : J. K. MUMFORD *JKM*  
 SUBJECT: PETER BERGSON *P*

100-310922

DATE: March 5, 1945  
*✓ STGCLP*



 of the Secret Service called and requested that a check be made to see if the Bureau has anything in its files that would connect Peter Bergson with the Sturn gang.

I informed  that such a check would be made and he would be advised as to the results thereof.

Mr. Tolson  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm  
 Mr. Clegg  
 Mr. Coffey  
 Mr. Ladd  
 Mr. Nichols  
 Mr. Rosen  
 Mr. Tracy  
 Mr. Carson  
 Mr. Egan  
 Mr. Gurnea  
 Mr. Harbo  
 Mr. Hendon  
 Mr. Pennington  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm  
 Mr. Nease  
 Miss Gandy  
 b6  
 b7C

RECORDED

EX-69

100-310922F B I  
32 MAR 23 1945

*Let Sec. Service  
 3-18-45  
 SP-1 hp*

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 DATE 11/30/84 BY SP-1CSV/PSK  
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*5-EST*

*23*  
 51 MAR 30 1945

EJP:P:MMH

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES

SLIP(S) OF *Classified*  
DATE *2/19/84*

Date: March 16, 1945

To:



Secret Service Division  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by *SP1GSK/PSK*  
Declassify on: *OADR*  
*233271* *13164*

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: PETER H. BERGSON

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Reference is made to the telephonic conversation of March 5, 1945,

between *[redacted]* and Mr. J. E. Mumford of this Bureau. *[redacted]*  
asked if any data were available reflecting a connection between Peter Bergson  
and an organization operating in Palestine known as the Stern gang. (U)

A check of the files of this Bureau disclosed no information indicating  
an association of Bergson with the Stern gang. However, several allegations have  
been made charging that Bergson is connected with the Irgun Zvai Leumi, a terrorist  
group operating in Palestine said by some sources to be affiliated with the  
Stern gang. For your information in this regard, a summary of the data available  
concerning Peter Bergson is attached. This summary also includes information with  
respect to his organization, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. (S)

No active investigation has been conducted by this Bureau concerning  
Peter Bergson up to this time. However, the War Division of the Department  
of Justice has recently requested an investigation of the Hebrew Committee of  
National Liberation in light of a possible violation of the Foreign Agents  
Registration Act. The handling of this information in an extremely  
confidential manner will be appreciated.

~~SECRET~~

Enclosure

March 16, 1945

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/31/84 BY SP-105K/RSK

233271

Re: PETER H. BERGSON, *summary*  
also known as Hillel Kook

Peter Bergson is described as being single and thirty-four years of age. He is related to have been born in Lithuania, the son of Rabbi Dov Kook. It is related that he studied typography at the Hebrew University, although he claims to be a journalist. He is said to be a British citizen. In 1929, he allegedly became involved in riots between Arabs and Jews in Palestine and at that time was also alleged to have been engaged in an organization to advance the Jews against the Arabs in Palestine. He subsequently is reported to have become affiliated with a group advocating "Free Immigration to Palestine." With regard to this group, it has been alleged that its real purpose was to smuggle into Palestine people outside of the immigration quota. In the year 1936 Bergson reportedly left Palestine for London where headquarters of his group were established. Later the remark "We have been responsible for 40,000 Jewish refugees having entered Palestine illegally from Europe during the past seven years" was attributed to Bergson. It is alleged that Bergson is not looked upon with favor by the British Government.

(100-309132-1; 100-257656-4)

Bergson, since he came to the United States, is said to have been most active, from a policy-making point of view, in the following organizations: American Friends of a Jewish Palestine, Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews, Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe; American League for a Free Palestine, Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

(100-309132-1)

In May, 1943, information was received that although Bergson had requested diplomatic immunity, a deportation order was then outstanding against him. In this regard, in a final plea before the Board of Immigration Appeals, Bergson is said to have requested the withdrawal of a pending arrest warrant issued against him for illegal residence in this country. It is said that during these proceedings Bergson made an application with the Department of State for a permanent visa so that he could continue his work on behalf of the "Hebrew people."

(100-310922-3-7)

With regard to Bergson's reported attempt to maintain his status in the United States, it has been reliably reported that in November, 1942, Bergson communicated with a Governmental agency relating that he and five of his colleagues, who were then in the United States as visitors, were in danger of being drafted into the United States Army. He is said to have

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expressed himself as being happy to fight in the United States Army, except for the fact that he and his colleagues shared the responsibility of a much larger issue, namely the raising of a Jewish Army of 200,000 men. He requested, according to the report, that his Draft Board be impressed with his noncombatant value to the United Nations.

Bergson and his activities have been publicly attacked in the press over a period of a year. The Communist Daily Worker has been most vociferous in its attacks. In addition, other legitimate news organs have branded Bergson as a representative of the "Irgun." It was claimed that he collected over one million dollars from the American people, although he "became vague" according to one news article when it was insisted that he tell what use had been made of the one million dollars. It is also pointed out that, although Bergson refused British Army service on the ground that he wanted to fight in a Hebrew Army, he had made no attempt to join the Jewish Brigade which had already been formed. It was publicly stated at that time that Bergson was then appealing a 1-A classification from his Selective Service Board on the grounds of "indispensability."

(100-316012-8)

The Washington Post for October 4, 1944, carried an article which, in part, is as follows:

"Bergson admitted when questioned, however, that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, of which he is Chairman, is not American; has no right to collect funds; is taking no action toward the direct relief of Hebrews, and did not, to their knowledge, represent either European or Palestinian Hebrews."

(100-316012-A-7)

Regarding Bergson's activities in the numerous committees and organizations referred to hereinbefore, it is reported that the American Zionist Emergency Council commented in a fashion which had been referred to as typical of the statements made by the more "solid" Jewish organizations:

"Bergson's action is an attempt to perpetrate a colossal hoax on the Jewish people."

The statement is said to have continued, warning the public, the press and officials not to be taken in by "the brazen fraud of a half dozen adventurers with no standing, credentials or mandate, except from pistol-packing Irgun."

(62-60950-42)

It has also been reported that Peter Bergson was interviewed by officials of the Department of Justice in connection with the registration

of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. At that time he allegedly indicated that he supported the Revisionist ideology and stated that he, like most other young Palestinians, had belonged to a secret "defense corps" but declined to give any information concerning this point. However, he reportedly denied that he had been a member of any public Revisionist body. This latter statement is said to be in direct contrast to an announcement which appeared in the official organ of the World Presidency of the New Zionist organization which stated:

"Out of respect to the memory of our great leader ..., Vladimir Jabotinsky ... it has been decided to leave his post unoccupied for at least one year from the date of his passing ... the third of August (1940). Meanwhile a quorum of the Presidency in New York ... will continue to direct the movement ... In order to strengthen the presidency, it was deemed advisable to co-opt a number of men known for their ability and usefulness to the movement over a period of years. The following have been cooped with full powers: Hillel Cook (Peter Bergson), [redacted] and [redacted] The Presidency, known in Hebrew as Nessiut, is the supreme directing organ of the movement.

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With respect to the above announcement, one source had the following to say:

"This announcement appears to be worth consideration. At the end of 1940, when this announcement was made, there were in New York many Revisionist leaders from various parts of the world, where the work of the New Zionist Organization cannot be publicly carried out. In addition, thriving branches of the N. Z. O. exist in South Africa, England, Australia, and elsewhere. Of the men co-opted for the World Presidency, [redacted]

[redacted] of all branches of the New Zionist Organization in South America. [redacted]

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[redacted] of the New Zionist Youth organization. A search of all other public sources did not reveal any past or present activities in the New Zionist Organization by Bergson (or Kook). Yet, in this world organization with more than a dozen sections and claiming three-quarters of a million members, Bergson is selected for the World Presidency as one of three men 'known for their ability and usefulness to the movement over a period of years.' Since the only things known about this man are his admitted membership in a secret defense corps in Palestine, and his activities in the refugee-smuggling network -- both possibly connected with Irgun -- it may be that Peter Bergson was selected to serve on the Revisionist World Presidency as a representative of Irgun."

(100-316012-15 p. 14 and 15)

A discussion of Peter Bergson is not complete without revealing the activities of his principal organization in this country, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

The following information, unverified by investigation, has been voluntarily submitted with respect to this organization:

On May 18, 1944, the establishment of an "Embassy" in Washington, D. C., for a proposed Hebrew Nation in Palestine was announced. This was ascribed by the source to be the climax of a series of activities in the United States on the part of a small number of Palestinian citizens for a period of some three years. It was alleged that the group first called itself the Free Palestine Committee and finally became known as the subject organization. It was said that during these three years considerable publicity was engaged in by these Palestinian citizens in the United States. The campaign was said to have been conducted in the face of considerable opposition from established American-Jewish leadership, principally that of powerful Zionist groups. It was said that the Palestinian sponsors of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation come from the "extreme right wing" of the Zionist movement, known as the Revisionist Party, and were charged with being representatives of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, which is said to be the terrorist group engaging in violence in Palestine. During the course of activities of this group, it was said it secured the support and endorsement of many prominent American non-Jews, including members of Congress, Government officials, and other public figures.

The source pointed out that the aim of the group was ostensibly to secure the moral and financial support of the American people for proposals to form an army of Palestinian and Stateless Jews to secure free Jewish immigration into Palestine and to set up finally an independent "Hebrew Nation." It was related further that by means of full-page advertisements in the press, by benefit performances, and other functions, the group sought to raise funds and to enroll members for a series of several American groups which were being sponsored, the most important of which were the Committee for a Jewish Army, the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, and the American League for a Free Palestine. (This last named organization has in turn sponsored and promoted, at least on paper, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.)

It was further pointed out that the Free Palestine Committee (the original group) consisted of seven persons, all but one of whom were Palestinians, and who allegedly left their homeland separately during the period 1939-1941, met in the United States later, and began formulating their program. The leader of the group was described as being Peter Bergson, son of Rabbi Dovkook of Jerusalem, and nephew of the late Chief Rabbi Kook of Palestine. The others were:

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It was further related that with the announcement of the opening of the "Embassy" in Washington, the Free Palestine Committee emerged under the name "Hebrew Committee of National Liberation." Two additional persons were said to have been included, namely, Pinhas Delougaz, described as an engineer and archeologist, and Theodore Ben-Nahum. It was announced publicly that \$63,000 had been paid for the former Iranian Legation home. To finance subsequent activities, it is said that the Committee desired to float a one-million-dollar ten-year bond issue, and in this regard had sought the ways and means to make such an issue possible under regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

It is said that with the establishment of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and the announcement of its program, a number of Zionist groups which have in the past advocated the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine attacked Bergson's group publicly. Among the groups were the American Zionist Emergency Council and the Hadassah. In addition, the Communist press, including the Jewish Communist publication "Morgen Freiheit," attacked the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and asserted that its functionary represented the "Irgun."

(OSS report No. 191, 6-6-44;  
100-316012-6)

The source from which the foregoing information was forthcoming also informed that while relationship between the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and the "Irgun" in Palestine has not been admitted, there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to justify charges which have been made. It has been pointed out by this source that no denial of the charge of "Irgun" connections has been made, and further that [redacted] who had returned to Palestine in early 1944 to serve as the group's representative, was arrested in Tel-Aviv in April, 1944, at the time when there had been terrorist outbreaks for which the "Irgun" allegedly admitted responsibility.

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In this same regard, it has been pointed out that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation's magazine, "The Answer," for May, 1944, reprinted two



American newspaper articles discussing the then recent violence in Palestine in a somewhat sympathetic tone. It has been said that comment was added suggesting that the terrorist activities of the "Irgun" might be excusable. It has been also alleged that the term "Committee of National Liberation" has been one which has been used by members of the "Irgun" in Palestine who are alleged to have on occasions likened themselves to Marshal Tito's Partisans. It was also said that Bergson at the opening of the Washington "Embassy" remarked that "the Jews in Palestine are not free to speak as a nation short of a successful revolution." This statement, it was alleged, resembled the objectives of the "Irgun."

Prior to the public announcement of the opening of the "Hebrew Embassy," there was circulated in April, 1944, a form letter on the stationery of the American League for a Free Palestine which continued after an introduction pointing out the extreme hardships of Hebrew people in Europe:

"In view of the situation, we, a group of Americans, responding to an appeal by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, decided to launch a vigorous campaign with the following three fold purpose:

- (a) To open the doors of Palestine to the escaping Hebrews of Europe;
- (b) To bring about the formation of a Hebrew Palestine Army to participate in the invasion of Europe and the occupation of Germany;
- (c) To secure recognition of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine as a nation with rights of representation in the councils of the United Nations and at the peace table."

The above referred to letter went on to state that an inaugural congress of the American League for a Free Palestine would be held in June, 1944.  
(100-299904)

Later, under date of June 29, 1944, the American League for a Free Palestine, Incorporated, circulated another form letter in which it was stated:

"The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, temporary trustee of Hebrew national interests in behalf of the Stateless and Palestinian Hebrews, has issued a call for aid. These European and Palestinian Hebrews are a separate and distinct people, not to be confused with Americans or other nationals of the Jewish faith, living in countries of their birth or adoption.

"The American League for a Free Palestine is a non-sectarian organization created in response to this call. It is sponsored by a cross-section of leading Americans who give their whole-hearted support to this movement for national liberation."

Enclosed with the June 29, 1944, issue was a four-page leaflet which bears on its first page a picture of the "Hebrew Embassy" located at 2315 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C.

As regards a possible route of funds distributed by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, the following information is submitted as in turn received from a confidential source:

One [redacted] wrote Bergson under date of July 12, 1944, at 2317 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C. In this letter, according to the source, [redacted] referred to one [redacted] (possibly [redacted] who had recently passed through Palestine en route to Turkey. [redacted] advised Bergson that he had waiting for transmittal \$5,000 to be used by [redacted] also advised in the letter that the only place where this money could be sent was Turkey. (It is to be recalled that [redacted] left the United States during the early part of 1944 for the Middle East, reportedly on a mission for the War Refugee Board and reportedly as a representative of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, which latter group is one in which Bergson has been interested.) (100-316012-7)

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In the early part of October, 1944, the Washington Post ran a series of articles relative to Bergson, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and affiliated groups. In an article appearing in the October 3, 1944, issue of this newspaper, Bergson is quoted as having said:

"Relief work has been a small part of our work. Our majority activity is to mobilize the understanding and help of American people for an integral and positive solution of the problems of the Jewish people in Europe...we have been responsible for forty thousand Jewish refugees having entered Palestine illegally from Europe during the past seven years: I and my workers managed to accomplish this feat through underground methods."

This same article pointed out that a number of prominent people, both in the United States Government and out, denounced Bergson and his group for the unauthorized use of their names in connection with the literature of the group which was distributed as well as functions it sponsored.

(100-316012-8)